

THE ROCK LICKER

VOLUME 49—ISSUE 6

JUNE —2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-Tim Tiffin-President

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through 2008! Our club is having a good year, and there are many things to look forward to as the year progresses.

Last month's meeting went very well. Many thanks go out to Bill Smelcer for his nice presentation on tumbling. During the evening, you may have noticed several people being interviewed by David Walk in the northwest corner of the room. David has started putting together some new media that will showcase the club and its members. The topic was "Why I like the Rock Club!"

This month, we will be treated to a fine program on Lap Polishing by Warren Rood and Keith Bacus. And in addition to our usual Show and Tell program, David is requesting that you bring your prettiest rock and mineral specimens to show off to the camera.

Finally, it's not too early to be thinking ahead to our July events, namely, the Independence Day booth in Pioneer Park (we can still use more volunteers!) and the bizarre at our annual club picnic. If you would like more information about these two events, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other club officer.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in a few days!

Tim

June Club Meeting Program

Continuing with our monthly program theme of education and showcasing the talents of club members, the June program will be a lap grinding and polishing lecture and demonstration by Warren Rood and Keith Bacus. We have all seen Warren's work at club meetings and local shows. Now there is an opportunity to see how he does it. He and Keith will share information on where to find equipment and how to get started with this type of lapidary work. Come prepared with questions as they will have the answers.

Update on June Field Trip to Crystal Claim

The June 6-9 field trip to the Clarkia crystal claim will most likely have to be postponed until later in the year. There is still too much snow to get to the site. Conditions could change quickly so please be flexible. Make sure that Jack Edwards (509-529-3673 or edwardsj@wwics.com) has a way to contact you if you are planning on going on this field trip.

COMING EVENTS

- *The next meeting will be on June 10 starting at our usual time, **6:30 pm.***
- *Don't forget our 4th of July in the Park activities at Pioneer Park*
- *Next club field trip on 6/28 will tour member shops and collections*

May

Refreshments

Members whose last name begins with N-Z bring shortcake. Club will furnish strawberries

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Rock of the Month— Quartz

Quartz is the most abundant single mineral on earth. It makes up about 12% of the earth's crust. The fact that it comes in many colors and forms, it's no wonder that Quartz has gained the reputation of being the "chameleon" of gemstones. Pure Quartz, often called "rock crystal", is the most common gem variety of quartz crystal. Like all quartz, it is a silicon dioxide, SiO₂ compound formed from the two most abundant elements in the earth's crust: silicon and oxygen.

For centuries early civilizations believed that these pinhead size to nearly a meter in diameter rock crystals were permanently frozen ice. Quartz's high thermo-conductivity, which makes it feel cool to the touch, may have added to this belief. Regardless of what early people may have believed, historical records show the use of rock crystal for decoration and jewelry for at least 4,000 years. Tools and weapons were made from rock crystal long before it was used for decoration and jewelry.

Quartz is found in many everyday items, including sandpaper and other abrasives, soap and ceramics. It is also in high-tech items such as radios, TVs, Clocks, watches and computers. It was found to be highly useful in modern technology, because in electric tests, it was shown to produce regular electric pulses and field changes that inventors could predict.

During the late 1980's and early 1990's, metaphysical uses and applications of rock crystal resulted in an increase in its production and processing. The metaphysical market used raw crystal in jewelry, person power and healing devices, and as charms. Additionally, spheres, skulls, pyramids, and other metaphysical objects were made from rock crystal. During the height of the trend, these uses accounted for 40% or more of the rock crystal consumed in the United States and also resulted in price increases for most of the crystals. Today, the metaphysical market has declined from its peak and appears to have stabilized at about 15% to 20% of total rock crystal consumption.

Quartz is also found lining Geodes, in meteorites and in moon rocks. It is present in nearly every other rock type. Sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rock contains quartz in one form or another and in varying concentrations. It is essential in the formation of most igneous rocks, including Granites, Granodiorites and Rhyolite.

The weathering of igneous rocks removes most other minerals. But Quartz grains resist the erosion process. They collect together and when compressed make Sedimentary formations. When sedimentary rocks containing Quartz enter a metamorphic process, the size of the Quartz grains change greatly.

Show and Tell Schedule

An important part of our monthly meeting is the Show and Tell segment. It is one of the ways members can learn about different gems, minerals or fossils collected by other club members.

The following is the show and tell schedule for the next few months.

June—Jasper and Jade

July—A pin, button, buckle or necklace

August—Geodes or Nodules

September—Club rock competition preceding our fall show.

Special Announcement to Tumbler Owners

We still need tumbled agate, wood, jasper, etc. to supply the "Mine Dig" at the Club's Gem and Mineral Show in September. We all know how popular this activity is for the kids that attend the show.

David Walk has made his garage available and will be tumbling material for the club but we can use a lot more. Between now and the show in September run a load or two of material through your tumbler for the club. It will be greatly appreciated.

Warren Rood-Show Chairperson

Federation News—Jack Edwards, Federation Director

Don't forget our Federation Show and Meeting is scheduled for June 20 – 21 at Ontario, OR fairgrounds.

If you read your May 2008 NFMS Newsletter you will find a lot of information on pages 7 and 11 on field trips in our Federation area. It lists most, but I am sure not all, collecting areas that are known.

We have several members who headed to the Jackpot, NV Tri-Federation field trip at the end of May. I understand that several side trips were being planned by them to spots like Succor Creek, OR, McDermott, NV and around Battle Mountain, NV. I am looking forward to seeing the material that they return with at the June meeting.

Good Rock Hunting.

Club Activities at Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days

The club is again providing support for the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days this year. We will be coordinating the entries and activities of Department 64, the Gem and Minerals department of this year's fair. To that end the department superintendent, Jim Brain, will need help from other club members. Some of the tasks that need to be done include:

- Develop and prepare the education theme for the exhibit.
- Receive and log in all exhibits before the fair and return them to exhibitors after the fair ends.
- Setting up display cases before the fair starts and remove them on the day after the fair ends.
- Staff the exhibit for all hours the fair is open. (Fair requires that all departments have a person in attendance at all times.)

Please give Jim a call if you are available to help. (522-2261)

In addition, club members are encouraged to prepare an exhibit for this year's fair. There is an entry form included in this month's Rock Licker. The completed forms must be returned to the fair office by August 5. More forms are available at the fair office. Remember you can enter the same material in our Club's show in September.

Life Members

Doug Anderson
Paula Bremrose
L. A. Davin
John Rand
Bill Smelcer
Charlotte Smelcer

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

FAMILY—\$15.00
SINGLE—\$10.00
JUNIOR—\$3.00*

*WITH ACCOMPANYING
ADULT MEMBERSHIP

—
**BLUE DIAMOND CLUB
NAME TAG
\$6.50**

A Note from the Editor

I am always looking for material to include in the Rock Licker. My goal is to make the Rock Licker your newsletter, not limited to board members reporting club activities. If you have something you would like to have included, send it to me at.

jrbrain@gte.net

Or call 509-522-2261

Safety Tips

When breaking material into smaller pieces, wrap it in an old towel to prevent flying pieces and make sure you wear gloves and goggles.

Save Those Stamps

Members are encouraged to save commemorative and regular stamps. The money generated from stamps collected by all of our NW Federation Clubs are sold and the funds are used for Cancer Research. If each member saved five stamps a month it would add up fast. Start by saving the stamp from this month's Rock Licker newsletter.

Please save your stamps and give them to Jack Edwards at our monthly meetings. He will turn them in to the Federation.

Web links to learn about Gems and Minerals:

www.minerals.net

www.mnh.si.edu/earth/text/2_0_0.html

<http://geology.about.com>

<http://www.desertusa.com/Thingstodo/geo/geology.html>

<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/index.html>

Local Area Shows Coming Up—Plan on attending one

June 20-22—68th Annual NFMS Show and Convention-Ontario, OR

July 26-27—WA Agate and Mineral Society % Tenino Rock Cruisers
14th annual show, Tenino, WA

Aug 2-3—Fare West Lapidary's Rock and Gem Show, North Bend, OR

(See the next NFMS Newsletter for additional details or information on other shows.)

Kid's Corner—At the May meeting, several of the Juniors brought back their completed display shelves. We had a very nice assortment of painted and stained displays that turned out very nice. Good job Juniors! We spent the meeting typing up labels for the minerals they mounted. They also received an index card case and cards to store information about their collection. They were given the information sheets from Jim Brain and Bill Smelcer for their previous Rock of the Month items, as well as able to pick a mineral sample for bringing back their display. This is something they can continue working on at home and may bring back later in the year to show. At the June meeting we will be having a game night of "Pebble Play" (Mancala).

See you then.

Kim French —Juniors Advisor

May Program Highlights

Bill Smelcer's presentation on tumbling included some important points that we should all remember.

- Don't over tumble your material. Five to seven days per grit size works fine.
- Tumble materials of like hardness.
- Keep your tumbler 3/4 full using filler material if necessary.
- Finish the process by running the batch with bathroom soap for one day.

OUR SADDLE MOUNTAIN TRIP

Our son Bill was here from Silverdale, WA, and spent a few days with us over Mother's Day weekend. We went to the Balloon Festival festivities here in Walla Walla. He was able to stay an extra day so we took him to Saddle Mountain for his first rock hunting trip. We all had a fun time, and now we have a new rock hound in the family. It was really enjoyable taking someone who had never been out and showing them what the hobby is all about. He is now planning on getting a tumbler for some of the wood he found. We all found nice wood by the power towers, and nice red wood material from that area. It was a beautiful day.

Jack and Charlene Edwards

Highlights From The May 6 Board Meeting—Sandy Kinsfather-Secretary

July Meeting: Picnic and a non-bizarre bizarre. Members will be encourage to bring craft items they have made and could sell or swap them to other club members.

4th of July in the Park: We will have a booth to promote club activities and sell raffle tickets for the amethyst .It is also a way to recruit new members. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth and sell tickets.

Annual Show Ideas: David Walk offered some good ideas to promote our club by using free TV and U-Tube on the Internet. He would interview club members and put together short for promotional spots for free TV.

Mine Dig: Tumbled rocks are needed for the shows mine dig. David Walk volunteered to let someone put a tumbler in his garage and he would put the different grit in. The Board voted to purchase \$50.00 worth of grit to give to David Walk to use for the tumbling.

Secretary's Report—May 13, 2008 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

President Tim Tiffin called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Welcome of Guests: The club welcomed Don Larson who was visiting for the first time.

Old Business: President Tim Tiffin asked if there were any corrections needed for the minutes of the April club meeting. The club approved the minutes.

For those members who pondered the math question in the President's message from last month's Rock Licker, the answer and it is 31. (No one was smarter than a 5th grader.)

Announcements: Club member Wally Mandigo is having a rock sale: 8-5 on Sunday, May 18 and 8-12 on Monday, May 19. His address: 126 S. E. 3rd, College Place. He has some equipment for sale and museum quality rock for sale. He will have a kid's table with items for ten cents each or even free in some cases. He has some jade

and other nice samples for kids.

Jim Brain talked briefly about the help he will be needing with the upcoming Walla Walla Fair activities. The club has again agreed to coordinate the Gem and Mineral exhibits. This will require volunteers to help both before and after as well as during the actual fair. Contact Jim if you are interested.

He also encouraged members to start thinking about what they were going to enter in the fair. Youth entrants will receive cash premiums based on the ribbons won. In addition there will be twenty-five dollar cash awards for the "Best of Show" adult and youth entries.

Frank Vasconcelles shared his pictures of the Saddle Mountain and Roosevelt trip. He was even giving some of his double prints to members of the club who were in the pictures. He brought some for the club memory book too.

Jack Edwards announced that the June 6 trip to Clarkia is questionable due to the amount of snow. There is still 4 feet of snow. Stay tuned for additional info.

David Walk has agreed to prepare promotional material for the club. He will be video taping conversations with members for inclusion in TV spots and for posting on U-tube. In June he will be taping various lapidary work of club members so bring nice rocks other material to the June meeting for David to videotape.

Raffle: Bill Stonecipher conducted the monthly raffle drawing. Prizes included Funds raised at the monthly raffle support the Junior activities

Show and Tell: Eight members displayed material they brought to share with the club.

Evening Program: Bill Smelcer gave an interesting and informative presentation on tumbling stones.

Treasurer's Report—Ralph Threthewey

The club received membership dues from another new member this month bringing out total membership to 54 adult and 55 Junior members. We also have received registration fees from 6 commercial exhibitors who have reserved booth space at our September Gem and Mineral Show.

Rock Club Outing to Roosevelt as Experienced by the Bill Stonecipher

May 4th was a showery gray day in Walla Walla and there was fog in the valley below town. But optimism was in the faces of 15 intrepid rock club members and guests who gathered at the Clubhouse to follow the leader, Warren Rood, to the slopes above Roosevelt, Washington to find petrified wood.

By the time we arrived, for a not to quick stop at the Quick Stop, the weather had cleared and warmed to a comfortable level with only a slight breeze.

We all stopped along the road before coming to Roosevelt to leave a taxi car and to look up the talus and sand slopes to where Warren pointed out the digging area. We re-boarded and then drove up the grade, past some shattered remnants of petrified trees in the road bank to a turnout near the top.

There we were joined by another rock hound from the Tri-Cities for an orientation from Warren about safety and cautions. The view up and down the Columbia River Valley and the hills of Oregon to the South were spectacular. We were to slip and slide down the sand and rocks seen earlier to the digging area that I now guess to be about 120 to 150 feet down on a 65 percent slope. The slope is steep enough that the sand and stones do not stand on one another, rather they fall and roll down the slope for long distances.

Warren, on an earlier trip had located several locations for good opportunities to dig and find good petrified wood. It all appeared to be in one level or strata across the cliff side. I think that everyone found some excellent materials. Ralph even found the leather bound glasses case, with glasses inside, that he had lost last year.

Some went around the hill to the West and found gray-white pieces of kindling like material, some of which was over a foot long and perhaps 2 inches in diameter, in which the grain was quite obvious. But most of the group gathered in three or four places along the strata and found wood..

I was lucky enough the find a started hole from last year that had a log in it that four or five different diggers could dig down to. It was vigorous work but between us we revealed about 7 feet of so of the original log. By the time we got it unearthed it had fractured in several good sized pieces the largest of which - that I saw - was about 16 inches long and maybe 8 or 9 inches in diameter. I was determined to get the log down, but knew it was too heavy to carry in my arms. So I left it behind and started down the slope to the taxi car, which was then to taxi me to the top to get my ropes to help control the rock's descent.. (It was far enough away, down the afore-mentioned steep talus/loose slope that people at the opposite ends of the climb looked more like the size of medium dogs.) My bucket, tools and backpack plus about 30 pounds of excellent specimens proved to be unwieldy on the sliding tumbling rocks underfoot as I tried to descend safely. By the time I had got down 150 yards of so, I had decided that I would be unsafe to try to make another trip while trying to control larger rocks.

Some of the younger men were climbing back up the slope to help others who were carrying their own loads down. I tried to pass the message back up that I was abandoning the large rocks for someone else to claim. Warren and Ralph decided to try to just roll them down and if the shattered, some excellent smaller pieces could be brought down. They were right. One shattered quite a lot, but the larger one only lost some corners rolling down to where it could be carried safely. I was happy that they got it down in as large a piece as they did. I believe that Ralph will really enjoy it. But I will have the fine memory.

And I do have a fine memory of the trip to Roosevelt Petrified Wood. Warren had warned that it was not an easy location to access. He was correct. I would emphasize that no less than 4 or 5 go on each occasion for safety and assistance concerns. But for those with a little gumption and challenge, it is an opportunity to enjoy some wonderful scenery, some great rock hound friends, and come home with some truly awesome samples of petrified wood. I think a fine time was had by all. Thank you , Warren.

Bill Stonecipher

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

President: Tim Tiffin	509-525-3766	ttiffin@innw.net
Vice-President: Keith Bacus	509-529-1248	keithbacus@yahoo.com
Secretary: Sandy Kinsfather	509-529-1455	sandyj@bmi.net
Treasurer: Ralph Trethewey	509-529-9209	
Federation Director: Jack Edwards	509-529-3673	edwardsj@wwics.com
Federation Delegate: Charlene Edwards	509-529-3673	
Junior Activity Director: Kim French	509-525-7387	frenchke@hscis.net
Past President: Warren Rood	509-522-2330	wrood@coffeycomm.com

Supporting Cast:

Classes: Steve Rice, Ralph Trethewey
 Drawing: Bill Stonecipher
 Historian: Charlene Edwards
 Lapidary: Paul McCaskill, Ray Wister
 Librarian: Yvonne Brewer
 Photographers: David Walk, Russell Kinsfather
 Programs: Warren Rood
 Refreshments: Crystal Walk, Charlotte Smelcer
 Show and Tell: Keith Bacus
 Publicity: Linda and Bill Stonecipher
 Stamps: Jack Edwards
 Sunshine: Marilyn McCann
 Web Master: David Walk

Working Groups:

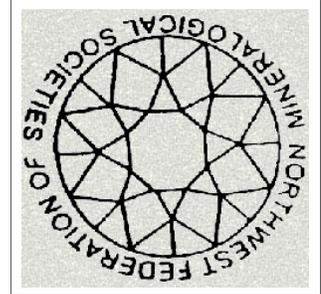
Field Trips: Bill Stonecipher, Steve Rice, Ray Wister, Keith Bacus, Warren Rood
 Junior Club: Kim French, Tracie Tiffin, Kellie Casebier, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Karen Bumgarner
 Membership: Charlene Edwards, Sandy Kinsfather
 Show: Warren Rood-chairperson, Jack and Charlene Edwards, Bill and Linda Stonecipher, Kim and Kevin French, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer,

Affiliations:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <http://www.amfed.org>
 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) <http://www.amfed.org.nfms>

MARCUS WHITMAN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 338
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

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Bulletin Editor
Jim Brain
509-522-2261
E-Mail: jbrain@gte.net

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AND
THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION
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THE ROCK LICKER is the official monthly publication of the **Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.** (NFMS Club # 719), PO Box 338, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

The objective of the Society is to encourage the study of earth science through suitable programs, field trips, exhibits and other educational activities. People of all ages are welcome to join us. There are junior club activities for youth under the age of 17.

Regular club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at the Lions Club Field House on the corner of SE 8th St and SE Larch Ave. in College Place, WA. Both the Juniors club activities and general club meeting start at 6:30 pm.

Note: July is reserved for a club picnic and December is reserved for the Christmas party and potluck.