

THE ROCKLICHER

VOLUME 49—ISSUE 7

JULY —2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-Tim Tiffin-President

Summer is officially here, and it heralds one of my favorite club events of the year – the annual club picnic! It was three years ago at the July picnic that my family and I had our first exposure to the rock club.

Now, I'd thought about joining the club many times before, yet for one reason or another I never did. But as I was visiting Marvin Jenkins one June day in 2005, I noticed a bucketful of beautiful thunder eggs from the Kaner Flat area near Naches. When I inquired about them, he mentioned that he had recently joined the club as a way to spend quality outdoor time with his children.

That was all it took for me! My dad and I used to do the very same thing when I was growing up in California, and I realized that I needed to share the joy of rock collecting with my children. So, I called up Warren Rood and he invited my family and me to the club picnic. We had a marvelous time!

Whether this will be your first club picnic or your fortieth one, come prepared for an enjoyable time. This year, we are trying something new – along with our picnic we will be having a special bazaar. Please look inside this newsletter for more details.

And be sure to get ready for our next field trip on July 11-12 which, as fate would have it, will be to the Kaner Flat dig.

In the meantime, I hope you can drop by (or perhaps even help out with) our club booth in Pioneer Park on Independence Day.

Tim

Club Picnic and Bazaar is July 8

Remember that this coming meeting will be totally different. The success of this meeting will depend upon each one of us. We will begin at **6:00** pm on Tuesday, July 8 with our annual picnic. Bring one hot dish (casserole, entrée or vegetable) and one cold dish (salad, dessert or bread). Also bring your own plates and utensils. The club will provide cups and drinks.

As soon as we are done eating we will have a club bazaar. Anyone that wants a table can have a one to set up and display the items they would like to sell or trade. Bring any items that you have made. This can range from jewelry, cabs, slabs, rough or any type of rock or mineral. You can also bring other items that you have made such as photography works, quilts, sculptures, wooden items, etc. that you would like to sell or trade. We do ask that you not bring household items as this is not a yard sale. Rather think of it as a craft and rock sale. The goal of the evening will be to trade and sell items, while at the same time we learn of each other's hidden talents.

COMING EVENTS

- *Don't forget our "4th of July in the Park" activities at Pioneer Park.*
- *The next meeting will be our annual Club Picnic on July 8 at the Lions Club clubhouse in College Place, **6:00 pm**.*

July

Refreshments

Each family should bring one hot dish and one cold dish or dessert for the club picnic.

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Kaner Flats field trip July 12-13

For our next field trip we will be looking for beautiful thunder eggs on Saturday and Sunday July 12-13. We will leave the club house at 7 AM on Saturday July 12 and travel to Kaner Flats WA. This area about 30 miles West of Naches, takes approx 3 ½ hours.

The thunder eggs are generally a bluish agate with a reddish brown matrix, some of the most attractive thunder eggs in the Northwest. The area is a beautiful Cascade forest with nice views and a very peaceful campground. There is about a ½ mile hike into the dig site from the car. You can spend the night at the campground or make it a day trip. Bring pick, shovel and other prying tools. Any questions call Warren, he will lead the trip. There will be a sign up at the next meeting.

Tri-Federation Field Trip to Jackpot, Nevada by Suzanne Young

Well, I survived another rock hunting outing and it was another great adventure.

Rudi Domazlicky and I were ready to tent it, cook out-of-doors, sleeping bags and all, but the weather had other plans. Our first night was spent in our truck because the wind was blowing too hard to set up a tent.

After a long night, we were anxious to head for the hills and search for new treasures. The digs for pink limb casts were very rewarding and I think everyone was pleased with their findings.

The next three nights were happily spent at a "motel" in Jackpot. A shower and hot meal never was more welcomed. Thank you weather for more wind, rain and hail.

The site for Paisley jasper was a beautiful spot just to see and the hunting grounds were generous with nice specimens and colors.

The snakeskin agate is an amazing work of nature and many nice pieces were squirreled away in buckets and nooks and crannies in everyone's vehicle. I am glad that we didn't have to pay by the pound!!!

It was nice to have Warren, Paul, Ralph, Frank and Keith at the Rendezvous too. They helped with the driving to the challenging digging sites.

You missed a fun time, Vern. Hope you can make it on the next Great Adventure.

Got Rocks,

Suzanne Young

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.

July—A pin, button, buckle or necklace

August—Geodes or Nodules

September—Club rock competition preceding our fall show.

October—Fossils

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.

A couple of members have stepped forward and will tumble some rock for us but we can use a lot more. Between now and the show in September run a load of material through your tumbler for the club. It will be greatly appreciated.

Warren Rood-Show Chairperson

Rock of the Month—

The club would like to thank Bill Smelcer and those members who have donated material for the monthly Rock of the Month program for making the program a success. To date we have featured pyrite, obsidian, aragonite and quartz.

By the end of the year we hope to have presented information on twelve rock and mineral specimens and given the youth members a fine start on a collection .

Due to the club picnic, there will be no rock of the month in July. The program will resume in August when we will be featuring jasper.

Our Activities at Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days

As you are all aware the club is providing support for the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days. We will coordinate the entries and activities of Department 64, the Gem and Minerals department again this year. Department superintendent, Jim Brain, would like to thank those who have already volunteered to help but he still needs more helpers. Volunteers putting in four hours or more receive a free one day pass.

Some of the tasks remaining to be done include:

- Finish preparing the rock tumbling demonstration for the exhibit.
- Setting up display cases before the fair starts, arrange the exhibited items in the cases, and remove the cases on the day after the fair ends.
- Staff the exhibit for all hours the fair is open. (Fair requires all departments have a person in attendance at all times.) Note: Jim is checking with the fair to see how many hours we need to cover. Please give Jim a call if you are available to help. (522-2261)

In addition to preparing your own exhibit for the fair, please encourage non-members to submit lapidary entries as well. Entry forms are available at the fair office. The completed entry forms must be returned to the fair office by August 5. Remember you can enter the same material the following month in our own Club's show.

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

Shop Tips

It is possible to polish almost any material in a tumbler, even stubborn Apache Tears, by using one pound of cerium oxide with dry corn meal. Use dry. Tumble for three days.

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.

Still time to sign up to help with "4th of July in the Park"

Our club is sponsoring a booth at Pioneer Park on Friday, July 4th as part of the city's "4th of July in the Park" festivities. If you like to meet people and love the rock club, this will be a very easy and fun thing to do. You will be selling raffle tickets for our amethyst cathedral and just talking to people about our club. The booth will be open from 10-5. You can volunteer for a few hours or more.

Just call Tim or Warren.

Local Area Shows Coming Up—Plan on attending one

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

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

September 13-14—The Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society's annual Gem and Mineral show at the Walla Walla County fairgrounds.

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

June Program Highlights

Warren Rood and Keith Bacus gave an informative presentation on polishing and grinding equipment. Their presentation included both a discussion and demonstration on the use of several types of equipment that can be used for shaping and polishing gemstones.

- Grinding machines are generally used for free form shaping of small items. Cabing machines are a good example of a grinding machine. Another example is the flat or belt sander. Silica carbide is the most common abrasive used in grinding machines. Diamond wheels last longer but cost much more. Gang grinders have wheels of different coarseness. Belt grinders use belts of different grit.

Kid's Corner—

We had a small turnout for the June Juniors group.

The group that came played Mancala and had fun.

There will not be a Juniors meeting in July due to the club picnic.

Keep working on adding to your displays and labeling the items. See you at the picnic.

Kim French

Juniors Advisor

- Polishing machines are used for finishing work. There are several varieties. Flat lap polishers and leather buffing wheels are the most common. Lap polishers can either be of the rotating drum type or the vibrating pan type. In both you gradually work through various grit sizes.
- Combination machines have a combination of grinding wheels, buffing wheels and sometimes include a small trim saw.

Never grind dry. Most equipment uses a water slurry to keep down dust and prolong the disk life.

Regardless of the equipment you are using always wear eye and ear protection for your safety.

Highlights From The June Board Meeting—Sandy Kinsfather-Secretary

Due to illness there was no Board Meeting on June 3.

Secretary's Report—June 10, 2008 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

At 6:45 p.m. Vice-President Keith Bacus welcomed the club members and the visitors. Visitors welcomed were: Bud Rupe, Norma and Olan Long (they joined) and Lawrence Kelly (he joined).

Announcements: Congratulations were given to Bill and Charlotte Smelcer on their 61st wedding anniversary.

A thanks goes to Don Nash and Jim Brain for donating rocks for tumbling.

Field Trips: Warren announced the June 29 field trip will be to club member's homes to see their collections and a lapidary shops. Those interested are to meet at the club field house at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

4th of July in the Park: The club will have a booth at Pioneer Park on the 4th and we need volunteers to help for a few hours to sell raffle tickets for the amethyst cathedral and to recruit new members. It is from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Set up time around 9:00 a.m.

Fair Exhibit Update: Jim Brain said we need members to volunteer to staff the rock exhibit from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the 5 days of the fair, August 27-31.

The club has again donated \$25.00 each for the "Best of Show" for the youth and the adults. Anyone can enter the exhibit. It is not just for club members. If anyone knows of someone who does lapidary work then please tell them to enter. Bill Smelcer and Pat Spencer will be the judges.

Show & Tell: Keith Bacus led the show and tell segment of the meeting. Several club members took part in the Tri-federation rendezvous in Nevada and showed some of the material they came back with. Frank Vasconcelles showed the large variety of material he found and some of the jewelry he has made from it. Warren Rood showed some chicken tracks, red jasper, onyx, and pink limb casts. Jack Edwards showed some blue agate from Saddle Mt. Linda Stonecipher showed some slabs from Bruneau and birdseye jasper. Paul McCaskill showed some leaf fossils.

Su Meredith showed jade from New Zealand, BC and Alaska. Jim Brain showed tumbled beach agates, jasper, and petrified wood. Don Larson showed jadite. Ralph Threthewey had a tray of mineral specimens that a friend had donated to the club.

Raffle: Jack Edwards, with the help of Ashton and Curtis Huntley, conducted the raffle drawing. Funds raised at the monthly raffle support the Junior activities.

Program: Warren Rood and Keith Bacus presented a lecture and demonstration on grinding and polishing using equipment they own. The two shared tips to help people better understand grinding and polishing techniques. They discussed the various types of grit and had samples to show. The diamond grit is the best to use but is expensive.

They talked about vertical wheel polishers, cab machines (Russell Kinsfather brought his to show) and the free form belt sander. They said to put oxide and water on a wheel to polish. Never grind a rock dry. The dust will get in your lungs. Don't apply a lot of pressure.

The vibrating lap is textured on the bottom. It takes about 7 days of movement, water, and grit and then you use the next size grit up to a 1000, and then use the polish.

Thank you, Warren and Keith, for the informative presentation. We appreciate you sharing your knowledge. Meeting adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report—Ralph Threthewey

The club received membership dues from two new members bringing our total membership to 89 adult and 44 Junior members. We have received registration fees from nine commercial exhibitors who have reserved booth space at our September Gem and Mineral Show. Financially we are in good shape.

NEVADA TRIP—Jack Edwards

Charlene and I combined a trip to visit family in Modesto, CA with a rock hunting trip in Nevada during the last eight days of March and 1st of April. After spending three days with my family we headed over Donner Pass into Nevada for our adventures.

Our first stop was at the Nevada State Library in Carson City where I hoped to replace a book on Nevada Rock Hunting. No luck, so we headed on to an old gypsum mine just south of Fort Churchill and gathered up a bucket full. We then headed to Hawthorne where we spent the next two days exploring field trip sites.

Our first day was spent exploring Dunlap Canyon which is East of the small town of Mina. We were looking for fossils of the Triassic age. We searched the cliffs of the canyon, and eventually found some coral specimens, and small clams, oysters, and crinoid stem pieces in the 200 million year old rock. On the way out of the canyon, we decided to investigate some white formations that turned out to be ash. However, we saw petrified wood chips and followed them up a gulch until we discovered a small partially buried tree stump. With a lot of work we were able to recover a lot of the wood, and the tree root ball. It was too large to carry so I rolled it down the hill. When we finally got to the bottom of the hill I could not find it, and we ended up leaving it.

The next day we headed for the Tonopah area. East of town we found an agate spot and picked up a bucket. Next we gassed up, and headed out to find an old perlite mine located Northwest of Tonopah. We found the mine, and collected specimens of perlite embedded with obsidian, loose apache tears, and a bucket of golf ball size specimens of perlite filled with small bits of obsidian. We made a side trip to the "Bad Lands". It was quite interesting to see the formations and how barren it was.

The next morning we left for Fallon where I found the book I was looking for at the Hwy. 50-95 Rock Shop. We decided not to visit the Wonderstone site, and instead headed to Lovelock. There are sites shown in several articles, but we were unable to find the roads or find anyone who could give us directions. We then decided to look for an old mine South of Oreana. After 14 miles on a desert mountain, one lane road we finally found it. It was mid-afternoon and started snowing lightly so we headed back to the highway to Winnemucca, NV for the night.

The next morning the temp was 8 deg. We were glad we were headed home with only two more stops. First was at McDermitt at the Cordero Mine which was an old cinnabar mine. We gathered up a bucket full of agate pieces, and then visited one of the petrified wood areas. We were lucky to find a few pieces of wood.

Our last stop was Succor Creek leaf fossil area in OR. Because of the recent snow it was too wet to dig, but we did find leaf specimens by walking around.

We are already thinking about our next trip.

Jack and Charlene

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:

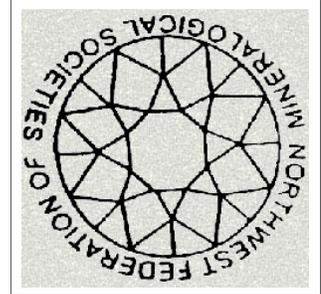
Field Trips: Bill Stonecipher, Steve Rice, Ray Wister, Keith Bacus, Warren Rood
 Junior Club: Kim French, Tracie Tiffin, Kellie Casebier, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Karen Bumgarner
 Membership: Charlene Edwards, Sandy Kinsfather
 Show: Warren Rood-chairperson, Jack and Charlene Edwards, Bill and Linda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



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

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.