ROCK LICKER

VOLUME 50—ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-Tim Tiffin-President

I want to send out my deep gratitude to each of you who contributed to make last month's Christmas dinner a wonderful success. Many thanks for all that you did to make it so warm and special.

I enjoy the excitement and anticipation that a new year brings. Yet, as we look forward to another great year for our club, we should pause and give thanks to some very special people - Ralph Trethewey, Jack Edwards, and Charlene Edwards.

Over the last three years, Ralph has done an exemplary job as our treasurer and Jack has done an outstanding job as the federation director. In addition, Charlene has served us well as the federation delegate during the past year. We have truly been blessed by their service to the club!

But as so often happens, a new year brings change. And I am pleased that Randy Pierce will be our new treasurer, Norma Long will be our new federation director, and Olan Long will be our new federation delegate. Their service will certainly enhance the club!

For our January program, we are resurrecting a contest that we last held nearly three years ago. It was well-received then, and we're anticipating the same level of enthusiasm again. Look for more details in this edition of The Rock Licker!

January Show 'n Tell—Bring a rock or mineral beginning with "P".

Finally, if you haven't turned in your 2009 club dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. A family membership is $25, a single membership is $12, and a junior membership (with accompanying adult) is $5.

Happy New Year!—Tim

January Program:

Each one of us has memories about finding a rock or mineral. So, perhaps to encourage you to share a special memory with the club, this month's program will be a contest entitled "My Favorite Rock Story!" Here's how it works:

Participants will form two groups based on age - Adults and Children. Each participant will tell a memorable story surrounding a rock or mineral that he or she found - on a field trip, in a rock shop, in a stream, along a road, in a funny place, in a strange place, or wherever. The story can be about the prettiest or ugliest specimen, the largest or smallest, the cleanest or dirtiest, or whatever made it stand out in your mind to create a memory. If it is possible, please bring the specimen to illustrate your story - although it's not mandatory.

We will have adults judge the children stories and children judge the adult stories. The top three winners from each group will be awarded a nice prize of a crystal, fossil, rock, or mineral specimen. So, think of an entertaining story and come prepared to share it on January 13!

COMING EVENTS

Don't forget the next club meeting on January 13 at 6:30 pm at the Lions Club House in College Place

January Refreshments

If your last name begins with the letters A through M bring cookies or vegetables and dip for the refreshment break.

IN THIS

President's Message	1
January Program	1
Rock of the Month	4
Word Game	2
Kid's Corner	2
December minutes	3
Club Leadership	5

FEBRUARY PROGRAM— At the February meeting we will be doing our field trip planning for the year. Between now and the February meeting be thinking about field trips you would like to see take.

SUNSHINE

The families of the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society want to express their best wishes to long time club members Bill and Charlotte Smelcer and hope that their current health issues stabilize and they are able to resume more normal lives.

Bill and Charlotte have moved to the Regency at the Park assisted living facility at 420 Myra Road in College Place across from Fort Walla Walla Park. They would enjoy having visitors but it is best to call ahead to make sure it is convenient. Their phone number is 525-6638.

Kid's Corner—

The December Christmas Party was a great success. The Juniors did not have a separate activity, due to the gift exchange. All kids in attendance appeared to be having a good time. At the January meeting, there will be game activity that the Juniors will play for prizes.

Kim French
Juniors Advisor

WORD GAME—In 2008, the Rock Licker featured 10 different materials as the Rock of the Month. How many of them can you find in the word puzzle below. The answers will be in next month's Rock Licker. Have fun!

C	H	A	L	C	E	D	O	N	Y	M	O
R	F	R	D	I	R	0	M	R	U	I	T
V	Q	A	E	I	P	E	L	P	P	S	H
A	Y	G	Y	P	S	U	M	L	E	T	E
N	U	O	F	I	N	Q	L	E	T	E	R
C	H	N	P	E	A	U	T	A	O	R	D
Y	H	I	E	S	I	A	H	I	S	E	O
L	A	T	T	A	D	R	T	E	K	D	Y
Q	P	E	R	L	I	T	E	F	E	I	A
X	S	N	I	S	S	Z	I	P	Y	A	M
T	U	D	F	O	B	O	O	K	S	L	E
Y	I	A	I	E	O	S	W	A	T	A	O
O	R	G	E	T	I	R	Y	P	O	R	J
P	R	G	D	T	U	Q	U	A	N	T	Z
P	I	A	W	I	N	N	E	R	E	A	O
T	L	T	O	M	O	N	T	R	A	A	P
L	B	W	O	A	S	V	T	P	R	C	Z
P	W	R	D	O	O	W	N	E	T	O	R

ATTENTION: I would like to draw your attention to page seven of the Rock Licker. Here, in addition to the elected officers, you will find a listing of the "supporting cast" and standing working groups that are essential to the success of our club. You will also note that some of the support positions are vacant. In addition the working groups could use a few more members. If you are interested in serving in some capacity to help the club please contact one of the board members and express your interest.

LOST —Large, white oval, porcelain dish (with scroll-work on the ends) with plastic lid that was half full of carrots (which by now are probably not orange). After the Christmas party, if you brought home this dish by mistake, please call Warren Rood, 522-2330, so he can be reunited with it. Thank you.

Answers to the December Word Puzzle: Items to make sure you take with you to make sure you have a successful rock hounding trip.

Maps	Compass	Water	Lunch
Trowel	Bucket	Pencil	Notebook
Cold Chisel	Knife	Matches	Safety Glasses
Gloves	First Aid Kit	Friends	

Treasurer's Report—Randy Pierce

I want to thank the club members for allowing me the opportunity of assisting with "minding the finances". I have some mighty big shoes to fill with the great job Ralph, our outgoing treasurer, has done. It will be a pleasure and a challenge to continue the tradition of providing responsible leadership with the finances to the board and the club. Stay tuned for more later.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE-2009

FAMILY—$25.00
SINGLE—$12.00
JUNIOR—$5.00*

*WITH ACCOMPANYING ADULT MEMBERSHIP

BLUE DIAMOND CLUB NAME TAG
$6.50

Secretary's Report—December 14, 2008 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

The evening started at 6:00 p.m. as members gathered for our annual Christmas potluck. Bill Stonecipher began the festivities with a word of prayer. Then the members lined up to fill their plates with the good food that was laid before us. The food was great and we had 2 turkeys provided by the club and cooked by Warren Rood and Crystal Walk. We ate and visited at tables decorated with silk poinsettias. Approximately 59 members and their families were present.

Business Meeting at 7:20 p.m.: President Tim Tiffin thanked all the officers, board members, and members for their contributions for the year. He thanked the cooks for the food as well.

Installation of officers: Bill Stonecipher was the master of ceremonies for the installation of the officers for 2009. Bill presented the officers to the club by way of a poem. Thank you, Bill, for the interesting poem for the installation of the officers. The officers are as follows:

President: Tim Tiffin

Vice-President: Keith Bacus

Secretary: Sandy Kinsfather

Treasurer: Randy Pierce

Federation Director: Norma Long

Federation Delegate: Olan Long

Junior Director: Kim French

Raffle: President Tim did a raffle for the table decorations. Each member was given a free ticket for a chance to win a silk poinsettia.

Sunshine: Warren Rood gave an update on Bill and Charlotte Smelcer. They are at Regency at the Park. They like it where they are living.

Gift Exchange: The gift exchange began at 7:35 p.m. as the members that were participating gathered around the Christmas tree for an exciting gift exchange. They each drew a number from a can and then got to choose a gift under the tree or one already opened when their number was up. Approximately 50 people participated.

We had 2 visitors who attended our Christmas party. They were Bryce and Marty Abraham and they have now joined. Welcome!

The activities ended about 9:12 p.m.

Rock of the Month: The Mohs Scale

Often in our discussion of the Rock of the Month we refer to the Mohs Scale of hardness.

In 1812 the Mohs scale of mineral hardness was devised by the German mineralogist Frederich Mohs (1773-1839), who selected the ten minerals because they were common or readily available. The scale is not a linear scale, but somewhat arbitrary.

Hardness	Mineral	Associations and Uses
1	Talc	Talcum powder.
2	Gypsum	Plaster of paris. Gypsum is formed when seawater evaporates from the Earth's surface.
3	Calcite	Limestone and most shells contain calcite.
4	Fluorite	Fluorine in fluorite prevents tooth decay.
5	Apatite	When you are hungry you have a big "appetite".
6	Orthoclase	Orthoclase is a feldspar, and in German, "feld" means "field".
7	Quartz	A versatile mineral used both as a gemstone and in manufacturing.
8	Topaz	The November birthstone. Emerald and aquamarine also have a hardness of 8.
9	Corundum	Sapphire and ruby are varieties of corundum. Twice as hard as topaz.
10	Diamond	Used in jewelry and cutting tools. Four times as hard as corundum.

2.5	Fingernail
2.5–3	Gold, Silver
3	Copper penny
4-4.5	Platinum
4-5	Iron
5.5	Knife blade
6-7	Glass
6.5	Iron pyrite
7+	Hardened steel file

© 1998-2006 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

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: Randy Pierce		randy@c-zone.net
Federation Director: Norma Long	509-525-4640	
Federation Delegate: Olan Long	509-535-4640	
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:
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:
Sunshine: Marilyn McCann
Web Master: David Walk

Life Members

Doug Anderson
Bill Smelcer
Charlotte Smelcer

Working Groups:

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

Remember to save your stamps

The Rock Licker

Volume 50 Issue 1

To:

(Place mailing label here)

Bulletin Editor
Jim Brain
509-522-2261
E-Mail: jrbrain@verizon.net

WE ARE ON THE WEB:

http://mwrocklicker.googlepages.com/home

THE MARCUS WHITMAN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY IS AFFILIATED WITH:

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCITIES
AND
THE NORTHWEAT FEDERATION MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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.