

Rock Rollers Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 14766
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Meetings 4th Tuesday
9517 E. 4th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99206

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Club Affiliations: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org/nfms
Washington State Mineral Council – www.mineralcouncil.org

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ROCK ROLLER MEETING

Tuesday June 28, 2011, 6:00 pm
9517 E 4th Ave
Spokane, WA 99206
Juniors 6:00pm Tuesday, June 28

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday June 28, 2011, 4:00 pm
9517 E 4th Ave
Spokane, WA 99206
News to editor by July 5

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 24, 2011

Treasurer: report given by Bev Bockman.

Correspondence: Shelton Rock and Mineral Society sent flyers for swap meet August 20, Shelton, WA.

Show: Operating Procedures will be reviewed next week.

Scholarship: Drawing will be tonight. Next drawing will be in four months.

Program July: Annual Picnic will take the place of our regular July meeting. Picnic will be held Sunday, July 17.

Shop Equipment: New faceting machines have been ordered. Leon Agee will inspect old machines for possible repair.

Several saw blades were purchased from Jim Cotant's estate.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – May 24, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President David Rapp.

Proclamation of Appreciation given to Erma Riese by Dave Rapp, written by Mildred Scheel, for Erma's dedication as the editor of the Rock Rollers newsletter.

Attendees: 30 members, 4 guests, 1 junior.

Program: a DVD "Sculpted by Floods: The Northwest's Ice Age Legacy."

Approved old minutes.

Treasurer: Bev gave a treasurer's report. Rock Rollers have moved our funds from the bank to the Spokane Teachers Credit Union.

Bulletin: Email submissions by the 10th of June.

Federation: The annual Federation meeting will be in Chehalis July 29-31. Dennis Hicks is the Federation director and will be attending on behalf of the Rock Rollers.

Mineral Council: Mike Shaw is trying to get permits for the field trips to use public lands. Parking passes are needed for some of these areas; check with Mike Shaw or on the internet to see if one is needed prior to going on the field trip.

Field trips: Emerald Creek Idaho, for Garnets June 11; Omak for Thulite June 25; see the bulletin board for details.

Library: Marian reviewed check-out procedures.

Faceting classes: A brief general meeting will be held after the general meeting. Hank Mosely, our instructor, is the person to contact with questions.

July meeting will be the annual picnic, held this year on Sunday, July 17th.

Cari Thrapp, Secretary

Door Prizes: Winners were Mary Jane Brown, adults; and Spencer McGarvey, juniors.

Scholarship: Congratulations to our five scholarship raffle winners: Jim Barter, Dan Boucher, Cyndie Doppler, Dolly Boucher, and Lori Roth.

Board of Directors Meeting: June 28th, 4:00pm.

Show Board Meeting: June 28th, 4:45pm.

June Program: Dennis Hicks will give a presentation on Idaho star garnets.

July Program: The annual picnic will be held at Browns Park, on the corner of Pines and 32nd Ave., in the Spokane Valley on Sunday, July 17. Arrive at 11am, eat at 12 noon. Activities to follow. The club will provide the meat and beverages. Please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Donations for picnic door prizes are being collected by Cari Thrapp and Dennis Hicks. We would like the prizes to be rock related items.

Plan on having a rock swap at the picnic. Bring your rocks, gems and minerals to be swapped with others at the picnic

Hospitality: member ill, etc.,?? Call Cyndie Doppler 216-5473.

REFRESHMENTS – Kathleen Govett

Thanks to Gretchen Blume, Mary Jane Brown and Erma Riese for May's refreshments. A special thank you to David Rapp for Erma's celebration cake.

Refreshments for June are taken care of.

NEW MEMBERS – Marian Knack

We are no longer putting any contact information on the web site for new members, just their names. Please make sure your information is correct – no typos or misreading of your applications. Thank you.

Rosters will be revised and new copies will be put at the club house for pickup, if you want one, along with a copy put on the bulletin board.

Welcome New Members:

Bob and Glenda Marquardt

Sandy Erhart

Tamara McFarlane

Sandra Phoenix

John Balzer

Correction: Ben Oden's name is Ben Odum.

LIBRARY – Marian Knack

Bob Bristow of the Colville Club gave a program at our August 2010 meeting of Mineral Locations in our area. Mike Shaw bought the discs, copied them and donated them to our Library. There are 7 discs, numbered CD-3 Through CD-9. They have been logged and are in the library. They can be logged out for 30 days only. Thank you Mike.

We also have a Robert's Rules of Order book and logged in as book #402.

SHOP UPDATE – Mike Shaw

The workshop classes have been going well, and some beautiful pieces have been coming out of the shop. Hank Mosely will be beginning a faceting class soon, so it may get a little busier. As long as we clean up after ourselves, things should go just fine. It's a good idea to bring a couple things to work, so that if one type machine, like the rock saws, are busy you can work on something else while you wait.

A couple safety tips:

- Don't forget to shut off the machine if you have to reach for a loose cab or stuck sponge. The wheel can grab you when you least expect it. The edges of the sandpaper wheels can cut you badly also.
 - Don't put things on top of the 8" grinders. If they drop behind the grinder, they can become caught in the pulley or drivebelt and get launched out at high speed.
-

FIELD TRIPS – Mike Shaw

Last month's field trips were pretty successful. I didn't get to attend the trip to Kettle Falls for the dolomite and calcite, but from the reports I heard and the samples I've seen, it was pretty good. There was a Mineral Council meeting scheduled the same day that I had to attend, so Teri Pratt was kind enough to fill in as Wagonmaster for the trip. Steve Fox of the Panorama Club met our club members in Kettle Falls and showed us where to go and what to look for.

There were also two long-range field trips. The first went to Wasco, Oregon, for China Hollow Picture Jasper. Dave Rapp and Rick Gronkowski brought back some nice stuff. There will be another trip to Wasco coming up this fall on Sept. 24th and 25th. I need to know by July 15th if you'd like to attend. There is a limit of 30 people allowed on this trip by the property owner. He won't allow any children or pets. A \$25 deposit is required to reserve a spot, and \$15 will be refunded after paying for the required portapottie. There will be a free campsite provided.

The other trip was just south of Prineville, Oregon. We went to Hampton Butte for red and green petrified wood, Paulina for pink and blue petrified wood, and Maury Mountain for moss agate. We found some nice examples of everything. It was a beautiful part of the country, with wildlife everywhere. We saw deer, antelope, a bald eagle and the highlight was a family of badgers. The weather wasn't the best, and we came off Maury Mountain because we had an inch and a half of hail. If someone wants to go down there, I'd recommend going a few weeks later in the season, but I'd definitely recommend going.

UPCOMING JULY FIELD TRIPS – Mike Shaw

Our first field trip for July will be to Wenatchee Lake for garnet, actinolite and soapstone. We have to be at Cole's Corner at the junction of highways 2 and 207 near Lake Wenatchee at 9 am Saturday July 16th. It's almost a four hour drive from Spokane, but camping is an option. You'll need a screen for the garnets, a wood saw to cut soapstone, and general digging tool for the actinolite.

Our second field trip is to Lolo Pass for smoky quartz. Dennis Hicks will be our Wagonmaster on this one. We'll meet in Lolo Hot Spring Resort's parking lot at 8 am July 23rd and 24th. Lolo Hot Springs has full service RV spots for \$25 a night, and tent sites with shower access for \$17 a night. There are two Forest Service campsites: Lee Creek and Lolo Creek at \$10 a night. The closest motel is a Days Inn in Lolo, 28 miles from Lolo Hot Springs. The Hot Spring cabins are full due to a family reunion that weekend, so if you'd like to camp at the resort, it might be good to make reservations now. Be prepared to do a lot of shoveling when looking for quartz. A screen may be handy to sift out crystals.

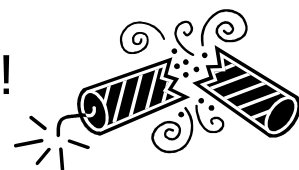
NFMS GEM & MINERALS SHOWS

July 15-17	Lower Umpqua Gem & Lap Society	Reedsport Community Bldg, Reedsport, OR
July 23-24	Washington Agate & Mineral Society	Parkside Elementary School, Tenino, WA
July 23-24	NW Montana Rock Chucks	Flathead Co Fairgrounds, Kalispell, MT
July 29-31	NFMS Annual Mtg and Show	SW Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA

(for more information see NFMS June Newsletter)



Happy Independence Day!



Rock Rollers presented the following Proclamation to Erma Riese on the occasion of her retirement as editor of the club bulletin, a position she held reliably for 19 years.

**The Rock Rollers Club, Inc.
Of Spokane, Washington**

PROCLAMATION

Where as: Erma Riese has edited the Rock Roller's Bulletin from 1992 to 2011, and;

Where as: during that time she has compiled, edited and published more than 225 monthly issues, and;

Where as: she has researched innumerable other newsletters to glean articles of interest to club members, and;

Where as: she has faithfully attended regular meetings, as well as board and special meetings to gather information for the bulletin, and;

Where as: she has encouraged members to share their rock hounding experiences by writing articles for the publication, and;

Where as: she has almost lost her eyesight and her patience by attempting to decipher the handwriting of various members, and;

Where as: she has received awards and accolades from NWMS and AFMS which further attest to the professional quality of her work;

Now, therefore, the officers and members of The Rollers' Club, Inc. do hereby bestow on

ERMA RIESE

THE HIGHEST PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FOR HER UNPARALLELED
SERVICE, LOYALTY AND GENEROSITY TO OUR CLUB.



David Rapp

President

May, 2011



photo from free Geology
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bl/images/blwallpaperindex.htm](http://geology.about.com/library/bl/images/blwallpaperindex.htm)
courtesy of Andrew Alden,
Geology Guide for About.com

Rick and David's Weekend Rockhounding Adventure

Rick and David signed up in March to be included in the State Mineral Council sponsored field trip to Wasco, OR, to collect the much sought after China Hollow jasper. On the way and on the way home we planned to check out other collecting sights for agate, petrified wood and common opal.

We left Spokane on Friday morning, May 20th, on our way to Goldendale, WA, where we would spend the night. We were to meet up with about thirty other rock hounds from across the state Saturday morning to caravan to Wasco, OR, and then go on to the collecting sight. Our route took us to Othello (HiWay 26) then across the Columbia River at the Vernita bridge (HiWay24). At this point we were heading into the Rattle Snake Hills which lie between the river and the Yakima Valley. These hills are known to contain a lot of petrified wood, so once we were across the river we made a few stops to look around. We did find some pieces right along the road as we drove up the hill heading south from the river (HiWay 241). Most of the petrified wood in this area seems to be bog wood. Continuing on, we went through Sunnyside, Mabton and Bickleton. We had heard that carnelian agate could be found south of Bickleton along the road (HiWay 241) so we made about half a dozen stops to find some. We found a few pieces but it proved to be elusive; most likely because the area had been picked over and also because the vegetation had grown up pretty heavily. This road then took us down into a beautiful deep canyon to Rock Creek (go figure) and then on to Goldendale.

Saturday morning we caravanned with the rest of the group through Biggs to Wasco where we stopped at a rock shop belonging to the jasper claim owner, Don Hilderbrand. After a brief orientation about the collecting sight we were back on the road heading SW out of town for about eight miles. We went to the end of the road and beyond. Four wheel drive or high clearance vehicles were needed to go off road to our final destination. The jasper had already been dug out and was laying all over the place so it was just a matter of deciding which pieces to collect or should I say harvest. This is beautiful material and different from other jasper we have seen from this area. Don charged \$.75 a pound from the field or \$2 a pound from his shop and was quite liberal in what he called a pound.

Saturday PM we drove back across the Columbia River, past Goldendale (HiWay 97), North to Toppenish, back through Sunnyside and spent the night in Desert Aire (on HiWay 243). This is on the Columbia River and just a few miles South of Mattawa, WA. Sunday morning we headed to Saddle Mountain where we spent the day collecting petrified wood. Our last stop was at the diatomaceous earth pit (SW of George, WA) to collect some common opal.

We made the most of the weekend and it was a lot of fun going to a new area to collect some different material to cut up and polish in the months ahead.

Rick Gronkowski and David Rapp

MURPHY'S LAW NO. 3 ON FIELD COLLECTING

Jackie's Law: The need to go to the bathroom increases with the distance away from the facilities.

Linn's Observation: The distance to crystal groups in narrow vugs always equals your arm length, plus six inches.

Ace's Observation: The best crystal of the trip will be found lying on the surface by a ten year old who will be heard to exclaim, "Is this rock any good?"

Everyone's Dilemma No. 1: All paths to collecting sites have more uphill sections than they have downhill sections.

Everyone's Dilemma No. 2: All paths from collecting sites have more uphill sections than they have downhill sections.

Everyone's Dilemma No. 3: The same paths double in length during your collection period.

Excerpted from Boulder Busters 4/11



BENCH TIPS – SILVER TESTING

With the price of silver going over \$45 an ounce today, it got me thinking that I should be sorting my scrap metals a little more carefully. Part of that process is identifying some of the unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox.

Silver testing solutions can be used to distinguish high silver content alloys like Fine (.999), Sterling (.925) and Coin (.900) from alloys that have the same appearance but no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41 for \$3. With a fresh solution, you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested.

Procedure is simple – as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

- Fine silver Red/Orange
- Sterling silver Brick Red
- 80% silver 20% copper Dark Red changing to Gray
- Brass Yellow changing to Blue
- Nickel Gray-green
- Copper Yellow changing to Blue
- Steel Black
- Stainless Steel No color change

CAUTION: If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

- Wear safety glasses.
- Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
- Always have a solution of baking soda and water handy to neutralize acid.
- Wash and clean up well when you're done.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or Facebook

From The Nugget 5/2011

HIGGINS LAWS OF LAPIDARY

1. It is possible to achieve a perfect polish on obsidian just before dropping it on the concrete floor.
2. The rock that will cut a perfect cab is the one you traded off.
3. When you are convinced that your display case is pretty good, you will find that there is a perfect one on either side of it.
4. The most beautiful piece of petrified wood will have the most fractures.

Bill Higgins via Boulder Buster, Rhodonitem, Golden Spike News, Rock Chip Reporter 4/11.



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You might be a rockhound if:

The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.

You own 15 pairs of boots and only one pair of tennis shoes.

You've fabricated a backpack for your dog.

At any time, any where in your house you can reach out and touch a rock. Even the bathroom.

Your brother-in-law threatens to take his scout troop camping to see "Rock City" ...in your yard.

More than once, you've had to have the shocks on your vehicle replaced after a successful trip.

You've ever fallen over/stubbed your toe on a boulder--In your living room.

You lick a dirty rock to show off the wonderful colors, without stopping to realize that you are the only rockhound in the group.

Someone shows you one of THEIR rocks, and you still lick it.

You've ever tipped you hairdresser with amethyst.

The local garden supply store has asked you to stop raking through their bags of topsoil.

The fish aquarium in your living room has better specimens in it than the Smithsonian.

You sob uncontrollably watching "How the West was Won" at the part where the farmers are clearing rocks and casting them off.

You bring a catchers mitt and a hand lens to a rock fight.

Someone talks about cleavage and you don't think about women.

You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.

The rock pile in your garage is taller than you are.

Thanks to geodepat, jewelonly, stevebarr and catannc

<http://dirtyrockhounds.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=1515>