the BEMS Tumbler

December 2009

The monthly newsletter of the **Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society, Inc.** Seattle, Washington

Christmas Party:
Sunday, December 13, 2009
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Black Diamond Eagles #1490
32618 Railroad Ave.
Black Diamond, WA 98010

Hope to see you all there!

Merry Christmas
&
Happy Holidays!



This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to
Karen Boucek on December 1,
Andrea Haverkamp on December 5,
Eugene Martin on December 11,
Wanita Martin on December 14,
Vinnie Noble on December 14,
John Carter on December 16,
Peter Lo on December 17,
Fanny Poston on December 27,
Dave L. Scott on December 27,
Debbie S. English on December 29,
Beverley Williams on December 29,
and also remember
to wish a
Happy Anniversary to
Larry & Mary Kissinger on December 14 (64 years),
Gerald & Mary Stickman on December 16,
Paul & Holly Grieve on December 19 (28 years),
Jerry & Sandy Chilson on December 29,
Peter & Beverley Williams on December 29 (27 years)


When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

Postal, or Email, Exchange Bulletins are welcome. Email preferred.

Officers & Directors 2009

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

President Bob Pattie
Vice President Scott Burch
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Pete Williams
Director Bill Cook
Director Dick Morgan
Past President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.
Federation Representative Michael Blanton
Federation Representative Jerry K.F. Chilson
Mineral Council Brian Waters
Mineral Council Bob Pattie
Refreshment Esther McKain
Membership Keith & Dick Morgan
Health & Welfare Carolyn Sealfon
Library Stephanie Jurado-Smith
Video Library Sandy Chilson
Raffle/Display Keith & Dick Morgan
Field Trip Eric Chilson
Field Trip Bill Cook
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Keith Alan Morgan
Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar
Shop Instructors:
Casting Joe Poston
Faceting Cliff Frome
Jewelry Carolyn Sealfon
Lapidary Dick Morgan

2009 BEMS Dues are $15 flat rate Individual, Family, or Retired.
Send or deliver dues to:
Richard Russell

(or pay him at the meeting)

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the *Boeing Company*; the *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; the *Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; and the *Washington State Mineral Council*.

Every member of the club should be receiving a copy of the Northwest Newsletter. If you are not receiving a copy contact Mike Blanton

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to **morgangraphix@yahoo.com** Please put Tumbler and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month, (except December which varies).

The BEMS external website is **http://www.bemsonline.com**

In 1852, after Queen Victoria married Prince Albert, they built Balmoral Castle in the Scottish Highlands. Because she was so fond of her new home and Scotland in general, the queen often had parties for which she required her guests to dress in full Highlands attire. This gave Victoria a good opportunity to share another of her loves: gemstones found within her kingdom, citrine in particular. As a result, citrines set in traditional Highlands shoulder brooches and kilt pins became popular.

from Golden Spike, 11/09

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Faceting Class	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Faceting Class	12
13 Christmas Party	14	15	16	17	18 Faceting Class	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Lapidary Class Hours:……Closed until further notice
Lapidary Shop Hours:……Closed until further notice

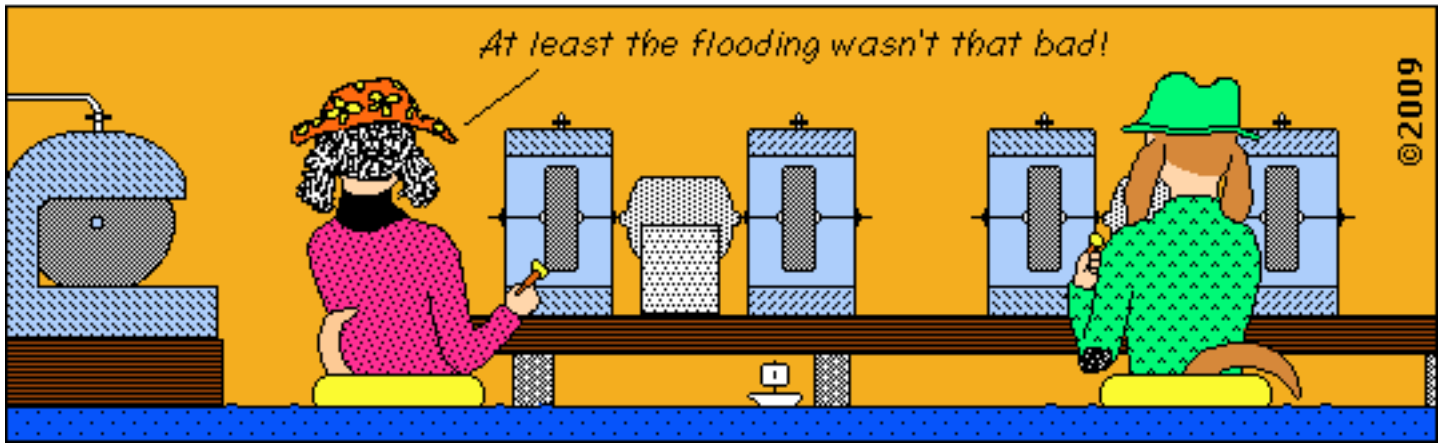
Jewelry Shop Hours:……Closed until further notice
Jewelry Casting Hours:……Closed until further notice
Jewelry Class Hours……Closed until further notice

Faceting Class Hours:……Friday……4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

South Sound Show Committee Meeting…1st Wednesday……11 am to 12 pm

BEMS Christmas Party:……December 13……7:30 am to

Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound by KAM



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

BEMS Board Meeting Minutes November 2, 2009

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Members Attending

President Bob Pattie	*Treasurer Rich Russell*
Secretary Pete Williams	*Editor Keith Morgan*
Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar	*Shop Dick Morgan*
Mineral Council Brian Waters	*Field Trips Bill Cook*
Federation Mike Blanton	*Guests Jackie Pattie, Pat Morgan*

Meeting called to order at 7:14

The move from the Kent recreation building went well. There was a water leak in the lapidary room that was successfully stopped. The club continues to look for a place to set up the equipment that is now in storage on Boeing property. Boeing will only provide 90 days storage.

A discussion was held on where the club's annual Christmas party will be held. The Black Diamond Eagles is a possibility. Board members were to look for other options and bring to the next general meeting. Elections will be held at the November 5 general meeting. Those present will vote for the slate of officers. A TV and video tape will be brought to the next general meeting for the program. Also discussed was the success of the NFMS show in Billings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

From Atop The Rock Pile

By Bob Pattie, 2009 BEMS President

The address for the Christmas party is as follows:

Black Diamond Eagles #1490
32618 Railroad Ave.
Black Diamond, WA 98010

The following is the directions I found:

Directions to the club:

From Renton go South on WA 169 to Black Diamond. Turn right on Baker street (by the Masonic Temple) to Railroad Ave. Club is on the right.

From Enumclaw go North on WA 169 to Black Diamond. Turn left on Baker street (by the Masonic Temple) to Railroad Ave. Club is on the right.

I would suggest that from Kent, or Highway 18, go to Covington and continue East to "Four Corners" and then turn south to Black Diamond. The location is behind the playfield that is on Highway 169 in Black Diamond.

The Christmas Party will be a pot luck like we have had in the past years. We have volunteers, who will cook and bring 2 Turkeys and 1 Ham. The club will provide the coffee and punch.

You will need to bring your own utilities, a plate, cup, serving spoons, etc.

You should also bring your favorite dish.

Merry Christmas!

Editor's Note: January Tumbler Deadline

The deadline to get something printed in the January Tumbler is December 13, since I want to get the issue printed before Recreation closes for Christmas.

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

The modern Christmas combines many traditions and is a time of peaceful harmony and gift giving, so why are so many people uptight and hateful against those who believe in the Christian input?

I reached in my pocket for some change and pulled out a handful of rocks & change. The clerk looked at me puzzled, so I told her, "I haven't grown up yet!"

Re-Polishing Glazed Jade

That glaze on your jade cab is caused by working with well-worn sandpaper. Try washing the stone in acetone, then washing in detergent two or three times, scrubbing with a toothbrush. Rinse well and try it on new sandpaper.

via The Show Me Geode, 8/09; via The Show Me Geode, 7/07; via Rock Rollers, 6/07; via The Pegmatite 6/05. from Quarry Quips, 5/05,

BEMS General Meeting Minutes November 5, 2009

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:33

No guests were in attendance.

Minutes approved as written.

Boeing Security came by and indicated that our meeting could not continue unless all attendees had Boeing badges. This position from Security is different than the direction provided by Boeing Recreation. We are working with Recreation to determine if we will be able to use Boeing facilities for future meetings.

Two items were resolved before the meeting was adjourned. The 2010 slate of officers was approved. Also, it was decided that the club Christmas part on December 13 will be held at the Black Diamond Eagles club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Warning Signs: Recognizing Signals Of A Head, Neck Or Back Injury by Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair

Although head, neck and back injuries are only a small fraction of all injuries, they cause more than half the deaths. Each year, more than two million Americans suffer a head, neck or back injury. Motor vehicle accidents cause about half of these types of injuries. Falls, sports accidents and acts of violence are other causes.

When to Suspect Head, Neck or Back Injuries

1. A fall from a height greater than that of the victim or any fall by an elderly person.
2. Any diving mishap.
3. A person found unconscious for unknown reasons.
4. Any motor vehicle accident involving a driver or passengers where severe blunt force to the head or chest, abdomen or pelvic area is possible.
5. Any injury that penetrates the head or chest, abdomen or pelvic area, such as a gunshot wound.
6. Any person thrown from a motor vehicle.
7. Any injury in which a victim's helmet is broken, including a motorcycle, bicycle, football or industrial helmet.
8. An incident involving a lightening strike or other incident where the victim is thrown.

Besides the causes of the injury, certain signals suggest head, neck or back injury. Signals of head, neck and back injury include:

1. Change in consciousness
2. Severe pain or pressure in the head, neck or back
3. Tingling or loss of sensation in the hands, fingers, feet and toes
4. Partial or complete loss of movement of any body part
5. Unusual bumps or depressions on the head or over the spine
6. Blood or other fluids in the ears or nose
7. Heavy external bleeding of the head, neck or back
8. Seizures
9. Impaired breathing or vision as a result of injury
10. Nausea or vomiting
11. Persistent headache
12. Loss of balance
13. Bruising of the head, especially around the eyes and behind the ears

If you suspect a person has a head, neck or back injury, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number. While you are waiting for EMS personnel to arrive, the best care you can give is to minimize movement of the victim's head and spine. Do this by placing your hands on both sides of the victim's head. Position the head gently in line with the body and support it in that position until EMS personnel arrive. If you feel resistance as you try to do this or it hurts the victim, stop. If the head is sharply turned to one side, do not try to move it. Support the head as you found it.

To learn more, contact your local Red Cross chapter and enroll in a CPR and first aid course (http://www.redcross.org/where/where.html) or enter your zip code in the "Find Your Local Red Cross" box on the front page of Redcross.org.)

via Breccia, 2/07; via CFMS Newsletter, 10/06; via The American Redcross SafetyNET, Fall '03; from National Spinal Cord Injury Association, 2000

Polyurethane Glue by Don Greene

If you've ever used polyurethane glue, you know that it doesn't store well after being opened. To prolong its shelf life, store the bottle upside down. An easy method of doing this is to drill a hole in a block of wood just large enough for the cap end of the bottle. NOTE: Always buy the smallest bottle that will suit your purpose. With this kind of glue the economy size may not be the best bargain.

via Rocky Trails, 11/09; via Golden Spike News, 2/09; from Chips 'n Splinters, 3/05

Radioactivity And You by Ted Reith, AFMS Safety Chair

I taught military students about nuclear weapon effects and defense against same for my two years U S Army active duty service many moons ago. My feeling at the time was that few outside the nuclear physics or health physics world had any meaningful understanding of this topic. I fear that the general knowledge has not improved much since then.

When the term "radioactivity" is used in general conversation, I feel most thoughts focus on Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. I know scores of people who would take a wide berth around an operating nuclear power plant (out of safety concerns) rather than take one of the fascinating tours some of them offer.

Radioactivity and fluorescence are somewhat related, in that neither can be detected by any of the five senses; specific electronic devices are necessary to know their existence. However, fluorescence can't hurt you, while radiation can be a hazard.

There are three types of radioactivity that may be emitted by the unstable nuclei of certain minerals.

Borrowing on the Greek alphabet, they are:

Alpha: structurally a helium nucleus. This form of radiation has very low penetrating power (can be stopped by a sheet of paper), thus is no hazard outside the body. Internally, however, it poses a risk if an alpha emitter would be inhaled or ingested.

Beta: structurally, a stream of electrons. Beta has some penetrating power, though can be stopped by a thin piece of aluminum. It is more of an external hazard than alpha - prolonged skin contact will produce a sunburn-like effect. Internally, it's of lower hazard than alpha, but eating is not advised.

Gamma: essentially similar to X-rays. These, depending on energy level, have great penetrating power, and can be stopped only with generous amounts of high-density materials such as Lead. They may pass through the body without doing damage, or may chip electrons off atoms and cause great damage if the energy is high and the exposure time is long.

How may one identify such species in their collection? To start, some of the more common radioactive minerals are: Uraninite, Torbernite, Autunite, and Gummite - all uranium containing species. To detect them, a Geiger counter (military Radiac instrument) is needed. eBay lists quite a few devices in the $20 - $60 range, most are Civil Defense items. Many of them measure Gamma dose rate and detect Beta, such as the CDV 700 device used by Civil Defense. Alpha detectors are unusual, and harder to find. If you have a local CD unit, they may be willing to lend you a device. In any event, you need one used for personnel monitoring (lower dose rate) rather than one for survey.

So, you determined part of your collection is radioactive… what to do. Common sense takes over. Don't eat, drink, or smoke while handling these materials. Wash your hands after handling. Store them further away from your living areas (dose rate decreases with the square of the distance). Avoid mechanical processes which may put fine debris in the air. Consider that Lead-lined box for fairly strong Gamma emitters (but not for Beta).

Like many other hazards in life, one can generally control them with knowledge. Handled safely, you'll get more radiation in a CT scan, from normal background (always present) radiation - cosmic rays and naturally occurring radioactives, and from the radioactive Potassium 40 present in your own bodies than you will from your mineral collection.

Free safety P.S.: The US Dept of H&HS offers a household product safety site, which may be reached at http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm. This site includes many specifically named commercial products commonly found around the home and discusses topics such as health effects, symptoms of exposure, first aid, physician notes, and many others.

Additional information may be found at http://www.hedegaard.com/Minerals/Groups/Radioactives.html. This link is fairly well written and may be included for those who wish to do additional reading.

from AFMS Newsletter, 9/09

Rock Tumbling Tips

1. NEVER pour the waste product from your barrels down the sink - it sets rock-hard even under water and will rapidly cause a blockage in your pipework. Find somewhere else to pour it - on the garden or I prefer to use a large outdoor water barrel - pouring the water out and then taking the slurry to the tip from time to time.

2. NEVER use a barrel which has had grit in it for the final polish phase - always ensure that you have one barrel especially designated for this purpose only.

3. NEVER allow any grit to contaminate any machinery - your washing machine, your tumbler, your dishwasher etc. - GRIT DESTROYS ALL MACHINES QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

4. NEVER leave your barrels for more than 2 days without checking them - always keep an eye on them so that in the event of a problem - such as a lid popping off - you can be around to sort it out quickly.

5. ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's instructions for oiling the bearings on your tumbler, do not ignore this or you will quickly find yourself with a seized up bearing - remember these machines need to run 24/7 without a rest!!

6. ALWAYS use separate spoons/sieves/barrels for each type of grit - you must always avoid cross contamination of grits.

7. ALWAYS protect your machines from damp air conditions and wet surfaces for obvious safety reasons.

8. ALWAYS pay close attention to the washing stages - there is no point in attempting to polish stones if cross barrel contamination is occurring - they will simply never shine.

via Breccia, 11/09; from Rocktumblinghobby.com

Who And What Get Capital Letters? by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Club Publications Chair

Recently I received a request from an editor asking for clarification on capitalizing names of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Generally speaking, rock and mineral names are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence, are given in a list of names, or are written as part of a specific format - such as on a label for a competitive case according to the convention required by AFMS.

Even minerals that are named after a person are not capitalized in general usage. The correct spelling of the person's name would be used, but no spaces and no capital letters at the beginning or in the middle of the name as applied to the official name of a mineral. Some examples are: goethite, mcnearite, joesmithite. Names of rocks are not capitalized (sandstone, quartzite) unless they refer to a proper name (such as Dox Sandstone, Troy Quartzite).

When writing the scientific names of fossils, the genus name is capitalized, the species name is lowercase, and both names are italicized. An example is: *Favosites sp*. If you use a typewriter and do not have the capability to italicize, you must underline: Favosites sp.

Names of fossil phylums, classes, orders, and families are capitalized but are not italicized (examples: Ammonoidea, Mollusca, Arthropoda). If these are used informally as English nouns or adjectives, they are not capitalized (examples: ammonites, mollusks, arthropods).

Names of geologic eras, periods, epochs, and formations are capitalized: Paleozoic Era, Jurassic Period, Miocene Epoch, Green River Formation.

If you need a really quick reference, you can always look up the word in the dictionary!

References:

Capitalization. AFMS Approved Reference List of Classifications and Common Names for Fossils. 1/11/2008. 11/2002. <www.amfed.org>

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Nickel, Ernest H. and Grice, Joel D. The IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names: Procedures and Guidelines on Mineral Nomenclature, 1998. The Canadian Mineralogist, Vol. 36, pp. x-xx (1998). 1/11/2008. <www.geo.vu.n/users/ima-cnmmn98.pdf>

Taxonomy. Scientific Names of Fossils. 1/12/2008. 5/15/2007. <english.fossiel.net/inforatie/taxonomy.php>

The Active Tectonics, Quantitative Structural Geology and Geomorphology Research Group at Arizona State University. Writing Tips for Scientific Papers. 1/11/2008. <64.233.167.104/search?q=cache: ckSLMvEW7usJ:activetectonics.asu.edu/Structural_Geology/Labs/FinalProject/Writing_Tips_for_Scientific_Papers.doc+capitalization+of+rock+names&hl=en&ct=clnk&cs=8&gl=us&client=safari>

from AFMS Newsletter, 3/08

Hiding Fractures In Your Cabs

The secret of hiding fractures in a cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. Heat the stone to 200 degrees in an oven. Mix epoxy and apply to one end of the crack and work toward the outside of the cab so that the air in the fracture is driven out and the resin now replaces it. You will note that the epoxy becomes very fluid when it touches the hot stone and flows right into he crack. Put the stone back in the oven 20 minutes for the epoxy to harden. Scrape off the surplus and proceed with your final polish.

via Rock Rollers, 5/08; from Glacial Drifter, 4/08

Epoxy Tip

If it is necessary to separate an epoxy joint, simply heat it as epoxy disintegrates at a temperature of 250 degrees F. This should be a warning to those who use heat to set epoxy.

via Rock Rollers, 5/08; from Rockpile, 4/07

The biggest stalagmite (one coming up from the ground) is in the Zhijin Cave, China, & is 230 feet.

The longest gold chain was 2.5 miles long.

Swarf—and How to Tame It

Swarf is that milky liquid you get when you cut cabochons or facet stones. Although it appears to be harmless, swarf can be deadly to your plumbing system and lapidary equipment if not handled properly.

When you grind rocks to make cabochons or faceted stones, you're removing tiny bits of the rock and carrying them away from your work with water. When the water evaporates, the tiny rock bits are left behind as a sort of concrete gunk. Overtime, this gunk hardens like concrete. So how do you tame the swarf? Never, never, ever, dispose of your swarf in your plumbing system. Don't pour it down a sink or toilet because eventually that gunk hardens and eventually narrows your pipes. Because it's concrete-like when hardened, it is almost impossible to remove! Instead, take your swarf outside to a non-important part of your garden and dump it there. or if there is no garden handy, allow the swarf to settle in the bottom of a bucket for a day or two. Then carefully pour off the now-clear water, scoop out the swarf, put it in a plastic bag, and toss it in the trash.

via The Hard Rock News, 3/09; via The BackBender's Gazette, 10/07; from Gem Cutters News, 11/84

Twinned Minerals

Twinned minerals can add a fascinating side to ordinary minerals or can add another dimension to already complex minerals. There are several minerals that form classic twins, such as chalcocite, fluorite, sanidine, microcline, staurolite, gypsum, cinnabar, spinel and rutile to name a few. Some twins have colloquial names, such as "fairy cross", "iron cross" and "cogwheel" twins. Twins form as a result of an error during crystallization. Instead of a normal single crystal, twins grow out of or into each other.

Accidental relationships are not considered twins, that is, where two distinct crystals grow more or less randomly side-by-side or toward each other. Twin formation is never random and follows certain defined rules called twin laws, usually named for well known twins, Spinel law, Albite law, etc.

The twin laws are crystallographic in nature and are caused by flaws in the crystal structure occurring during growth or change in phase. Many minerals form with a stacking sequence. If an error occurs during growth the twin forms as a mispositioned sequence, which is repeated as if nothing happened. The crystal(s) grow outward in both directions. Twinning has a dramatic effect on the outward symmetry of the mineral.

There are two general types of twin styles-contact and penetration. Contact twins have a composition plane that forms the boundary between them, a mirror plane where the twins look like reflected images or an angled plane resulting in a "bend" to the twin forming dove-tails, fishtails and chevrons. Penetration twins look like whoever made the crystal didn't know how it was supposed to fit and ended up twin crosses, 3-D stars and complex structures. Twinning is actually rather common in the mineral kingdom, but perfectly formed twins are not.

via Golden Spike News, 7/09; via GEM-N-I Newsletter, 7/03; from http://galleries.com

Annealing: we anneal to reduce the stress in a metal, so it will be easier to work with, more malleable. Here are some guidelines from Tim McCreight's book *The Complete Metalsmith*.

Heat to a dull red; quench as soon as the redness disappears:

- 14k gold
- 10k gold
- Red golds
- Sterling
- Fine silver
- Copper

Heat to medium red; quench as soon as the redness disappears:

- Bronze

Heat to bright red; air cool.

- White gold (nickel-based)
- Brass

from Breccia, 9/09

Ode To A Cab

Curse on thee, little cab,
Choicest part of a costly slab,
Traced with care and ground precisely,
Sanded smooth and finished nicely,
Why should work so truly fine
Be displayed right next to mine?

via Golden Spike News, 10/09; via The Rockpile, 3/07

How To Bend A Tube

Many tools sold in model/hobby stores can be used for jewelry making. During a recent visit to a hobby shop, I found tube bending coils, which model makers use to build models that require bent tubing. Jewelry makers will find these coils handy when bending tubing for projects.

Bending coils are available in different sizes, making it possible to bend tubing without any major distortions. When selecting a coil, pick one that fits the tube snugly.

Insert the tube into the coil and leave a small amount of the tube sticking out. This will allow you to grab the tube to remove it from the coil after bending.

Gently bend the coil to the desired curve. As the coil is bent, the tube inside will bend as well. If the tube fits snugly inside the coil, it will not deform during bending. Use a pair of pliers to remove the tube from the coil. It may be necessary to lightly sand the surface of the tube to remove any marks left behind from the bending process.

Tubes can be bent in different directions using these coils.

via Breccia, 11/09; from Ganoksin.com

Space in Your Suitcase Flying

by Cathy Gaber

Give some thought to the items you pack,
'Cause some may not need to come back.
So toss those old socks,
To make room for your rocks,
And your suitcase still fits on the rack.

via The Show Me Geode, 8/09; via The Show Me Geode, 2/02; from Opal Express

Hatchet Job

by Bruce & Cathy Gaber

There once was a fellow named Ratchet,
Who tried to break rocks with a hatchet.
But don't be a fool
And use the right tool.
You don't want to catch it like Ratchet!

via The Show Me Geode, 8/09; via The Show Me Geode, 2/02; from Opal Express

Scottish Two-Step

by Cathy Gaber

If your shop is a tangle of cords,
And you step like the dance of the swords.
Your path should be clear,
So you can work without fear,
Making cabs that will earn you awards.

via The Show Me Geode, 8/09; via The Show Me Geode, 2/02; from Opal Express

Top Ten List Of Gifts For Serious Rockhounds

10. A mine
9. A Humvee.
8. The strength of ten men.
7. A time machine.
6. X-ray vision.
5. Health insurance.
4. Dynamite.
3. A grip on reality.
2. Life insurance.
1. Arizona.

via Rocky Trails, 5/07; from Grindings, 4/07

No Shows This Month

Santa Is A Rockhound

(A Lapidarist's version of the Night Before Christmas)

'twas the night before Christmas
and all through the house
Not a Rockhound was stirring —I felt like a louse!
For the lapidary gifts I was making this year
Lay down on my bench, UNFINISHED, I fear!
The pendant my dear wife wanted so much
As I polished the cab, it fractured with a touch;
And the lovely jade brooch for Grandma so sweet,
Just wouldn't polish - it looked terribly beat.
As for Sister's new bracelet
with baroques dangling lightly,
I ran out of bell caps after the stores were closed tightly.
Then the tie clasp for Uncle that would make such a hit,
After I cut the cab, no mounting would fit!
And even Junior's new crystal growing set
Though I'd sent for it months ago,
had not arrived yet!
So I tossed and I turned as
though caught in a trap.
I could not settle down for a long winter's nap.
When all of a sudden I heard such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter;
I raced for the door then saw with a flick
a red suited man I was sure was Saint Nick.
As I reached for my robe and was turning around
Down the basement stairs, Santa went with a bound.
He went straight to my workbench to see what I lacked,
Then with a nod of his head, he opened his pack.
Out tumbled such mountings and bell caps without stop,
I was sure Santa must own a Lapidary Shop!
He said not a word but went straight to his work,
And finished each piece,
then grabbed his pack with a jerk.
And shaking his white-bearded face with much glee,
Took out some new slabs I knew must be for me!
Then, laying his finger aside of his nose,
With a nod of satisfaction, up the stairway he rose.
Went straight to the door, to his team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas, Dear Rockhounds,
and to you a good night."

via Quarry Quips, 12/08; via Calgary Lapidary Journal, 12/08; via Coastal Waves, 2005; via Hy Grader; Original source unknown

Internet Addresses

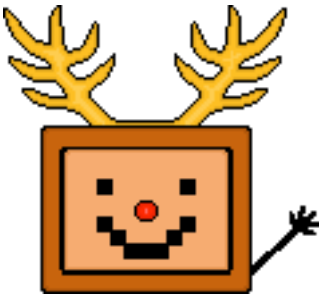
Zeolite Pictures
http://theteninorockcruisers.club.officelive.com/WASHINGTONZEOLITES.aspx

Mojave Desert information
http://digital-desert.com/

Gold & Silver Mines
http://www.goldandsilvermines.com/

Your Gemology
http://www.yourgemologist.com/

Gemology Tools Professional
http://www.gemologytools.com/



Uranium & Thorium Minerals Of The World
http://www.uraniumminerals.com/

Healing Crystals
http://www.healingcrystals.com/

Fossils
http://www.fossils-rocks-minerals.com/

Lost Treasure information
http://thelongestlistofthelongeststuffatthelongestdomainnameatlonglast.com/treasures.html