



the BEMS Tumbler

July
2008

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

Next Meeting:
July 10, 2008
7:30 p.m.

**Boeing Recreation
Activity Center**

Room B at
22649 83rd Avenue S.

Just off the Valley
Freeway (Highway 167) North
edge of Kent

The Program was not known at
press time

**First Place for Small Bulletins
in the 2007 NFMS Bulletin
Editors' Contest!**



*This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to*
Cheryl Kirschner on July 4,
Ed Laville on July 7,
John M. Richards on July 9,
Brandon Morgan on July 13,
Gerald Stickman on July 17,
Virginia Bird on July 18,
Les Akers on July 19,
Jeffrey Brannan on July 21,
Dan Clayton on July 24,
Jane Davis on July 24,
Larry Kissinger on July 25,
Mary Kissinger on July 28,
Cindy Waters on July 30,

*and also remember
to wish a*

Happy Anniversary to
Mike & Janet Tanaka on July 5 (28 years),
Ashlea & Nicholas Fulmer on July 9 (3 years),
Leonard & Dorothy Bahr on July 14 (46 years),
Dick & Patricia Morgan on July 14 (46 years),
Malcolm & Karin Wheeler on July 14 (32 years)



This publication is an official bulletin of the Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society Inc. (BEMS) however, news items and editorial comment herein do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the BOEING COMPANY.

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Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

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

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors 2008

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

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

2008 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 Dick Morgan

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>**

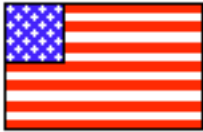

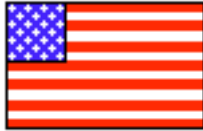
The pearly, altered shell material found on fossil ammonoids, were introduced to the gem world as “Korite” in the 1980s. The gem ammonite is found exclusively in the Canadian province of Alberta. In 1988 the Gemological Institute of America listed ammonite in its Gem Reference Guide, a technical manual supporting the G.I.A. colored stone identification and grading courses. The mollusk subclass Ammonoidea evolved 400 million years ago, during Devonian time, as free-swimming tentacle marine carnivores. The animal lived in a somewhat flattened, usually spiral shaped shell, as large as two feet in diameter. The shells are alternate layers of aragonite and organic material, the latter is the portion that fossilizes.

Reference: Voynick, Rock & Gem, 3/93



July



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	2 <i>Madras Pow-Wow</i>	3 <i>Madras Pow-Wow</i>	4 <i>Madras Pow-Wow</i>	5 <i>Madras Pow-Wow</i>
6 <i>Madras Pow-Wow</i>	7 Lapidary Shop	8 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	9	10 General Meeting 	11	12
13	14 Lapidary Shop	15 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Mt. Higgins Trip (maybe)</i>	21 Lapidary Shop	22 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	23	24	25	26 <i>Tenino Show</i>
27 <i>Tenino Show Lake Wenatchee Trip</i>	28 Lapidary Shop	29 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	30	31		

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 9
 More Show info can be found on Page 10

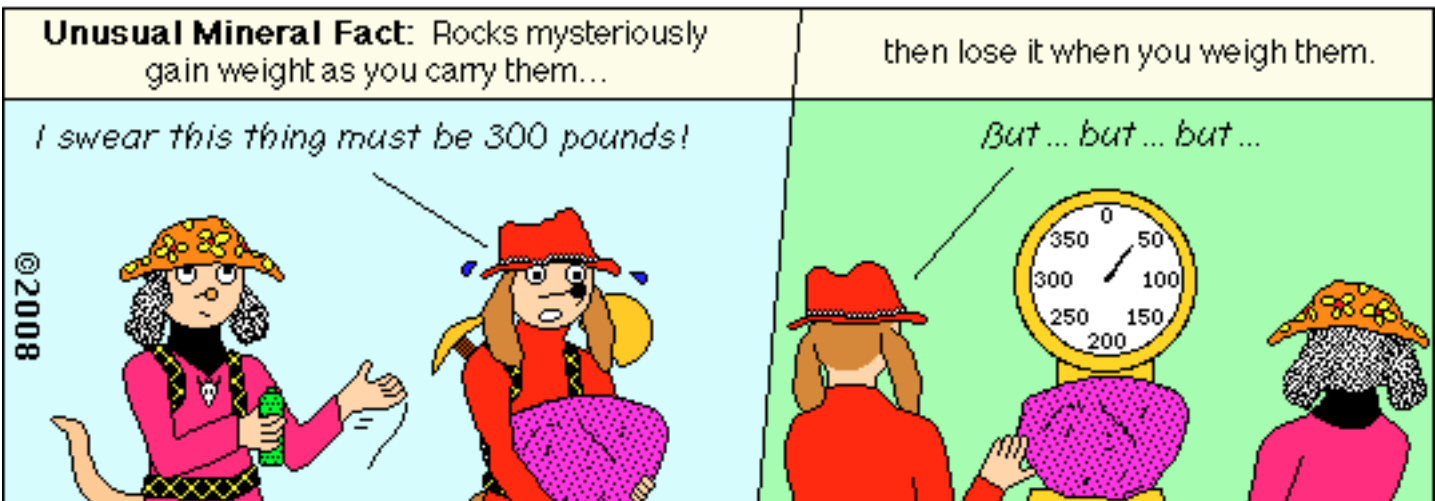
Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting Information All Day)

Faceting Class Hours:.....Closed for Summer, will reopen in September

BEMS Board Meeting:.....Cancelled this month
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by **KAM**



BEMS Board Meeting Minutes June 3, 2008



by Keith Morgan, Editor

Members Present

Malcolm Wheeler President

Rich Russell Treasurer

Keith Morgan Editor

Dick Morgan Shop

Bill Cook Field Trips

Bob & Jackie Pattie Mineral Council

Pat Morgan Guest

Meeting called to order at 9:45 am.

Treasurer's Report: Finances are good.

Shop Reports: Doing good.

Getting new sanding belts from the internet.

Put a notice in the Tumbler, "If you notice a piece of equipment in the shop is damaged, leave a note with the date!"

If you borrowed or misplaced the 50,000 grit disc for the Diamond Demon please return it.

Look into getting an 80 grit wheel for the shop.

The 24" saw is working.

Membership: Start adding BEMSID to the list of current members.

South Sound Show: Start tumbling rocks for the show!

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

The Friday night faceting classes are taking a summer vacation in July & August. Cliff Frome will resume teaching them again in September.

Shop Safety

If you notice a piece of equipment in the shop is damaged, leave a note with the date!

You don't have to leave your name, if you don't want to, but we must know about damaged equipment before someone can get hurt by it!

Also if the problem is fixed early it will cost less then if the problem is allowed to make things worse & causing more things to be damaged.

Obituary: Les Brooks

On Friday, June 13, at 1 a.m., longtime member Leslie Brooks, Jr. died at Stevens hospital.

Memorials can be sent to the Puget Sound Kidney Center, 21309 44th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043 or to a charity of your own choosing.

Our thoughts go out to his family & friends.

Les Brooks by Dick Morgan

I have known Les since 1961 and have listened to the stories that made up his life. We were friends and I will miss him and our running comments.

Les was proud of the work he did with his hands but his knowledge of electronics kept him at his job with Boeing. Les was an outspoken man when he thought he was right and was hard to deter from doing the job his way, and in many cases he was correct.

Les also traveled with the Boeing Travel Club and saw more of the world then most of us.

As a member of BEMS he found a home in keeping all the equipment in the shop running at peak efficiency and tried to keep up with ordering supplies before they were expended by the users of the shop. He was always taking some item of the equipment to repair it in his home shop as the BEMS shop either didn't have the space, or the tools required to do it right.

Les was a credit to the club in his attitude towards the principles of our lapidary goals and his enjoyment of the membership camaraderie. Always there when a helping hand was needed especially at show time. That many of the cases used to display members' work bear the results of his labor.

He enjoyed making intarsia and clocks, in which his very fine workmanship was evident.

Les will be missed by many of the members that knew him and those that went to lunch on Tuesdays.

Memory of Les by Joe Davis

I have such fond memories of Less in the Lap room fixing anything that broke... his commitment was awesome as far as I was concerned.

BEMS General Meeting Minutes June 12, 2008

by Pete Williams, 2008 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30

There were 7 guests in attendance. Fifty-two members attended.

Minutes were approved as written.

Tumbler Editors Report: Check with Keith to ensure your address is correct. Malcolm has been receiving about 6 returned Tumblers with incorrect addresses each month. The Tumbler could use more articles submitted from members.

Webmaster's Report: If you want to receive the Tumbler via email, please send your email address to Keith.

Treasurer's Report: There are still some badges to be picked up. Note that paying fees for use of the shop is on the honor system. The money is used to pay for shop maintenance such as oil and grinding wheels.

Shop Reports: The shop is currently doing some cleanup. Monday night lapidary class have been having about 12 members.

Library: Charlotte will be looking at a list of those who have not returned their books on time and informing those members. She reminded everyone that compact fluorescent light bulbs are hazardous waste because they contain mercury.

Health & Welfare: Madelyn Mann just returned from a nursing home after falling and breaking her pelvis. Les Brooks is not doing well after having a stroke. Joe Poston is no longer able to drive. He lives in Covington and could use a ride to club meetings. Charlotte bruised her hand and is in a sling.

Federation Report: The Federation Show is 2 weeks away in Ontario, Oregon. If you wish to attend a field trip, you need to sign up first. The Federation is still collecting used stamps cut 1/2 inch around. They do not accept forever stamps. These stamps are sold in bulk to foreign collectors with proceeds going to the Federation. Please bring them to the monthly meetings.

Field Trip Report: A trip to Madras, Oregon by the Pow Wow club will be over the July 4 weekend.

Mineral Council: The Mt. Higgins field trip may be postponed or canceled. The First Creek trip was a big success. The weather was warm and sunny.

South Sound Show: So far a total of \$7491 have been collected in vendor payments. There will be no July meeting. Committees will begin being formed in the August meeting. Please inform Malcolm if you wish to be on a committee.

Old Business: None

New Business: A Boeing Recreation survey was available for members to fill in at the meeting. Members could also fill out at home and send back to Malcolm. Mike Brimmage resigned as VP of the club as he is no longer able to attend the meetings. Cindy Waters was elected to replace Mike. Thank you Cindy.

Program: A video on *Rock Candy: A Story About Mineral Collecting* was shown.

Raffle: June Murff won the special.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Displays:

Malcolm Wheeler - Petrified wood

Camille - Dino poop

Leonard Bahr - Corundum & peasiolite

Jerry Heiser - Faceted sunstone, diamond & blue glass

Brian Waters - Thundereggs, Mexican coconuts & agates, all polished on a flat lap

Eric Chilson - Moroccan agate, tourmaline, petrified wood, thundereggs, Spruce Ridge quartz, topaz, brain coral, cabochons

Thought For The Day: The Most Precious Gems

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough, some are highly polished, some are dull and colorless unless viewed in the right light. And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing that their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality.

via Golden Spike News, 6/08; via Strata Gems, 6/08; via Rock Chips, 3/08; from Agate Explorer, 2/08

Lizards In Amber

Can you spot the fakes? Look for lizard decomposition, strain lines and bubbles around the lizard, foreign fibers, and seam lines with bubbles between the materials welded around the lizard. It's tough to fool GIA: they can do non-destructive spectroscopy to separate polystyrene and copal from true amber.

via Pegmatite, 3/07; from GM Insider, 12/15/07

Vibrating Flat Lap Topper by Sandra Brautigam

Cover your vibrating flat lap pan with plastic wrap to keep down splashing and evaporation. I use a Mold Band (basically, a large rubber band used to hold ceramic molds together) to hold the plastic wrap on the container. When water is needed, I poke a small hole in a low spot in the plastic wrap.

via Pegmatite, 1/07; from The Rock and Hammer, 10/99

From Atop The Rock Pile



By Malcolm Wheeler, Sr., 2008 BEMS President

July. How time does fly...

Ruby, ruby, ruby, ruby. Do you know where to find rubies in our fair state?

There is a mine out of Wenatchee that gives up hard to find red gems.

Most of us will have to settle for RUBY RED FIREWORKS that light up our night sky on the 4th of July only to fade away by mornings new light.

Maybe you'll be the one that finds a new source of red gems this year...

I've got to believe they cant all be found already... SO GO FIND and have FUN, BRING back your stories and treasure for all to see...

YOUR PRES. And family, Malcolm & Karin Wheeler

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan



America's freedom was won by 30% of the population with ideals & patriotism, 30 % wanted to remain true to England, 40% just wanted to live & didn't care either way, yet they pitched in to do their share in gaining our freedom. Which is basically the way America goes today. There's never a full majority for most things, there's just a hard core pro/con while most just want to live their life. The pro, the loyal opposition & the average citizen.

Bloodstone by B. Jay Bowman

Bloodstone is a cryptocrystalline variety of quartz chalcedony, although properly only belonging to some of the varieties, is generally used to describe all varieties of cryptocrystalline quartz. The hardness is just under 7 and specific gravity is around 2.60. The refractive index is 1.535 to 1.539. Chalcedony has no natural cleavage, and the natural luster is dull to waxy.

Bloodstone is semi-translucent, dark green with red spots, and not generally confused with any other gemstone. This tone is also known as heliotrope. It is unique in that it is always the same color with the only variation being the number and size of the spots of red.

Bloodstone lore includes the belief that the wearer can become invisible. This characteristic is mentioned by Dante in his Inferno, and it is also mentioned in the Decameron by Boccaccio. It has been said to stop nosebleeds and other bleeding, and is also good against poisons. It has also been said the heliotrope can guard the wearer against harm and makes the wearer loyal and true.

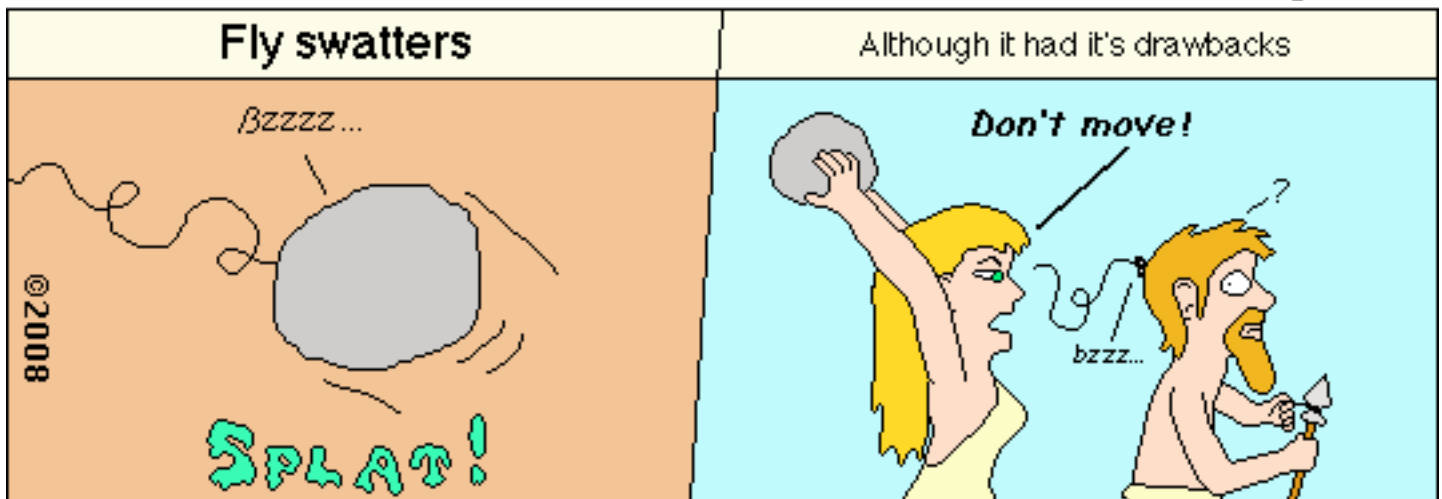
Bloodstone got its name in legend when a Roman soldier jammed a spear into Christ and some of the blood dropped on some jasper at the base of the Cross.

The word heliotrope comes from the Greek helios meaning sun and trope, a word for stone. It takes a very good polish and, according to Greek legend, would reflect the sun better than any other stone.

via Breccia, 4/08; from Gem Cutters News, 3/08

Prehistoric Uses for Rocks

by KAM



Thinking Small: Thumbnail Collecting by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

In my effort to develop new activities for FRA merit badges, this month I've been thinking small, probably because an article in a recent issue of *Rocks & Minerals* caught my eye: "The Year in Micromounting." The lens of a microscope can bring into focus astounding examples of perfectly formed crystals and fossils no bigger than a grain of sand with nary a ding or blemish. However, the art of the micromount can require a real bankroll to get a microscope and other specialized equipment, and it requires a truly steady hand and lots of experience and patience to prepare micro-mineral and microfossil specimens for study and display. So while I'm thinking small, maybe when it comes to kids' activities I shouldn't think that small! Fortunately, there's an intermediate step between the pinhead micromount and the fist-sized cabinet specimen: the category of minerals and fossils known as thumbnails. (As a rule of thumb, so to speak, if it fits in a 5-inch cube, it's a cabinet mineral; a miniature mineral will fit in a 2-inch cube, a thumbnail fits in a 1-inch cube, and a micromount requires magnification.)

Helping kids build thumbnail collections has several advantages. For one, a collection of thumbnails takes a lot less room to store. Over 100 specimens can easily fit in a space just one foot by two feet. For another, these smaller specimens can often (but not always!) be a lot kinder to a child's budget at a gem show. Finally, working with smaller specimens helps a child develop concentration and focus.

A good way to start collecting thumbnails with your club's kids is to take a field trip to the club rock pile or to the backyard of a willing club member who has a 40-year accumulation sinking into the ground. In this case, you won't be looking for the spectacular, one-of-a-kind giant hunk of semi-precious. Instead seek the rejects and castoffs: the quartz or calcite-filled geode that had shattered under a hammer blow and now lays in unwanted pieces or that chunk of rotting granite shedding flakes of mica, quartz, and feldspar. These pieces may have been deemed unfit as cabinet specimens but, on closer inspection, may yield perfect thumbnails. Encourage your kids to get up-close-and-personal with the rocks. Other sources include more traditional field trips to mines and mineral localities listed in the guidebooks, gem shows, and trading.

After collecting, you can lead kids in an evening exercise of cleaning and trimming their specimens to size, followed by another evening teaching how to mount and store specimens. Basic supplies needed might include hammers and small chisels (and eye protection!), pliers to snip away pieces of matrix, a regular hand magnifying glass or, better, a bench magnifier that allows you to work with hands free, and tweezers and glue. Thumbnail minerals are often stored in perky boxes, named after their creator, Willard Perkins. These small plastic boxes, available from mineral suppliers, usually have a black bottom lined with Styrofoam and a clear plastic top. Specimens can be pushed into the Styrofoam or mounted and glued on pedestals made from clear plastic sticks, toothpicks or tiny corks painted black, pins and tacks, or plastic bristles from combs or hair brushes. Kids just starting out might store their thumbnail specimens in those small plastic boxes with magnifier tops. Or even a simple matchbox will do!

There is one frustration to note about this aspect of our hobby: an apparent lack of reference resources. I've found Milton Speckel's *The Complete Guide to Micromounts* in the used book pile at a gem show. Originally published in 1965 by Gembooks and apparently reissued in 1980 by Gem Guide Books, it now seems to be available only in the used book circuit. And that's about it! If anyone out there knows of other helpful resources and publications for micro- and thumbnail collecting, I'd sure appreciate hearing about them (jbraceth@adelphia.net).

With thumbnail collecting, thinking small can result in smiles that are big as kids build an affordable, space-saving collection from specimens that are often overlooked while - as always - having fun!

Ed. Note: Probably the best reference on micromounting is "The Complete book of Micromounting" authored by Micromount Hall of Fame member Quintin Wight. It's available from Mineralogical Record.

from AFMS Newsletter, 9/06

Selecting And Polishing Fire Agate by Warren Hughes, 1972

There are several types of fire agates. Most closely resemble the others in makeup except for those with "surface fire" only. You do not want to waste your money or time on these, for it is almost impossible to keep that fire, and you won't if you attempt to shape the top, so select those you can work easily and that show good fire down deep within the stone. A few of these may also show some surface fire, but be sure there is fire INSIDE the stone also. The majority of fire agates you will be offered are of the latter type.

In selecting them, don't be afraid to take a few smaller stones, for their cost is quite small and many make into beautiful gems fine for earrings, tie tacks, smaller ring sets, etc., and by the same token, don't be afraid of the larger stones IF they show enough fire within them that you can make one large cab or two or three smaller ones from the one rough, for their cost then is small. Do NOT purchase a stone the size of your fist with one small spot of fire showing somewhere on it, for these ARE costly since more than 90% is waste. After purchasing (or finding) your fire agates, the very first rule to remember is NEVER, NEVER slab a fire agate. The extremely thin layers of "fire" that weave their way more or less horizontally across the rough stone move up and down, and all around, so to speak, and almost invariably will be lost to the eye, and extremely hard to relocate, if at all. Save your saw for one purpose only when working fire agate-to remove a finished or partially finished gem from the rest of the rough stone after you have shaped and sanded it (I polish also).

In examining your fire agates, choose those with good bright fire down in the stone at any location near or at the surface, or perhaps 1/2" down away from the surface. The patch of fire should be large enough that you can be sure of getting fire to make a nice sized cab or set, and not too thin when viewed from the top unless you can use it for a pendant or other drop type gem, but do

remember that you will have to remove the outer “skin” on each side and polish the sides when you get down to where it lies. SOMETIMES, for ease of polishing, it is more feasible to separate the two or more stalagmites that comprise the main stone, and work each as two smaller gems, but again-careful with that saw-sometimes it is easier to gently tap the stone with a very sharp chisel causing it to split into two parts.

After examining your stone and planning what you want to save as a cab, go to your roughest grinding wheel and while using light pressure, slowly remove the top of the tallest stalagmite that makes up the stone. Immediately LOOK, as in many, many cases, there will be fire you hadn't seen before right there. IF so, begin to shape your first cab. If not, grind on down (horizontally, and just above the brown lines of limonite) for 3-5 seconds, STOP, LOOK at the stone carefully again. If no fire, repeat, over and over until suddenly you do see the fire coming into view.

Now go to 220 grit wheel and move a little closer to the fire-trying to not really touch it (no tragedy will result if you do, as a rule), and then shape the outer limits of the cab. It MAY be necessary at this time to “favor” one side or face of the stone a little (usually the front face if needed at all), in order to align the fire best so that it is in alignment with the center line of the finished cab, and shows its fire best when viewed from directly above, after the cab is finished.

If your stone has multi-layers of fire (and most do have), and you do not like the fire you now see, then grind right on into it and hope for better to show. In most cases you will win the gamble; though you will sometimes lose, of course. When you have decided on the area of fire you want, shape it again, then move to the sander. I personally go to the 100 grit again, but use very light touch on a well worn cloth, then 220, then 400, and finally 600, which in itself will almost polish the gem.

From here polish your gem in any manner you would normally polish any agate or petrified wood. My own preference is diamond, using these meshes: 325-600- 14000-50000-100000 for a fine finish. On the Mexican fire agates, it is not at all uncommon to get two or even three finished gems-one directly below the other, so check for this after you have taken your completed gem off of the rough.

Another (and to me first) thing to check for is to roll the gem over and examine that side-hoping to find a good “Starfire”, and it happens frequently. IF you have one, you will know it the instant you see it. Those beautiful points of many colored lights speak for themselves. Almost invariably, you will want to make this into the new top.

Of the ones [fire agates] we do have-and they are scarce when compared to other gems, only a certain percentage are truly fine gem quality. When you have a real GEM FIRE AGATE you have something RARE, and more and more people are discovering its beauty and individuality-as well as its durability because of its hardness of 7-7.5, and more people are learning the thrill that comes with the discovery of a true gem within the rough material they are working on.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 3/08; via Hy Grader 3/08; via StrataGem, 2/08; via Rockhound Rambling, 1/08; original publication unknown

How To Grow Epsom Salt (Magnesium Sulfate) Crystals by Anne Marie Helmenstine, Ph.D. Chemistry

You can find epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) in the laundry and pharmacy sections of most stores. Epsom salt crystals are safe to handle, easy to grow, and form quickly. You can grow clear crystals or add food coloring if you prefer.

Here's what you need to know to make your own crystals.

Difficulty: Easy

Time Required: A Few Days

What You Need:

1/4 cup epsom salts (magnesium sulfate)

1/2 cup water

shallow bowl or dish

sponge (optional)

food coloring (optional)

Here's How:

1. Boil the water in a microwave or on the stove.
2. Remove the water from heat and add the epsom salts. Stir the mixture until the salt is fully dissolved. If desired, add food coloring.
3. Pour the mixture over a piece of sponge (optional) or into a shallow container. You need just enough liquid to cover the bottom of the container.
4. Place the container in a warm or sunny location. Crystals will form as the water evaporates.

Tips:

1. The sponge provides extra surface area to allow the crystals to form more quickly and helps make them a bit easier to view and handle.
2. Compare the appearance of the epsom salts before stirring them into the water with the appearance of the crystals that are produced.

Epsom Salt (heptahydrate of magnesium sulfate) - wikipedia.org

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 9/07; via The Rock-It, 9/07; from About.com

Earlier Editor's Note: Find out more at about.com - url: <http://chemistry.about.com/od/growingcrystals/ht/epsomcrystal.htm>

Field Trips

The club or clubs sponsoring the field trips are shown in italics. When known I have listed a phone number and contact person for each sponsoring club below the listed trips. If you are not a member of the sponsoring club, you should phone and ask permission to go on their field trip.

Some trips have fees to non club members, so they can be a day member, and be covered under club insurance. The usual fee is \$.50 a day.

Information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (<http://www.mineralcouncil.org>).

July 2-6 *Pow Wow Club - Madras, Oregon - Thundereggs, jasper, petrified wood* - Will need all tools - Meet at 8 am at Fair grounds in Madras

Rocky McCall (360) 629-2515 or rm711@tgi.net

Pauline Miller 360-658-8091

July 20 *Washington Agate Club - Mt Higgins - Rhodonite* - Will need hard rock tools, TOUGH tires - Meet at 9am at Oso closed gas station

Mike Messenger (360) 456-6930 or wams1939@comcast.net

July 26 *East Kingco Rock Club - Lake Wenatchee - Garnet, talc, actinolite* - Will need digging tools & screen - Meet at 9 am at Ranger station

Norma Kikkert, kev1123@hotmail.com

Does The AFMS Need The A.L.A.A.? by Dr. Robert Carlson, President, ALAA

No, if we don't care about our rights to collect on Public Lands!

The American Lands Access Association (ALAA) was designed to be the lobbying arm of the AFMS. It was established to protect our collecting rights on Public Lands. The ALAA has been declining as an effective organization over the past several years. Bob Cranston and Jon Spunaugle nurtured the organization for a long time. When they could no longer carry the ball for us, the ship became rudderless.

I am now your new President. I plan to revive the ALAA or be present at its funeral! As one of the founders of the ALAA, I have a vested interest in making it succeed. I do not have all of the answers, but membership and communication are the keys. We belong to a larger organization: Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC). They do the research that Bob and Jon did on our behalf. They provide us with alerts on legislation (both National and Local) that could curtail our access. They provide us with the information.

MY VISION

What we need now is an active communications network among ALAA members across the nation to get the BRC information to all ALAA members and their gem and mineral clubs - the local clubs that may be affected. The ALAA members and their clubs can then mobilize members to attend legislative hearings and do whatever seems appropriate via personal appearances, newsletter, newspapers, etc., to stop the legislation in its tracks.

The Proposed Process:

Alerts from the BRC should come in to three ALAA members who then e-mail it to all ALAA members. Why 3 hubs? So that if one is out of town, and one has computer trouble, there is still an open channel, which can be important when time is of the essence for some alerts. Any volunteers for the top three channels? — (If all three channels are operating, members will receive duplicate messages, but better than a lost alert.)

A word of caution: The BRC is funded by the makers of ATV's and snowmobiles and such. Hence, to the environmentalists out there, keeping the roads open means keeping them open for these who don't stay on the roads, who make noise and tear up the turf. We don't get environmentalist support. Somewhere along the line there may have to be categories of openness, as collectors are seen as relatively benign, in general, even by the environmentalists. (The above comments are based on some interesting conversations at the ALAA booth and at breakfast in Tucson!)

So Help! We need three members who have email and a fire-in-the-belly to catch and send on the information from the BRC, with words to inspire the recipients to take timely action. We also need ALAA recipients who will thereupon take action.

Are you there?? If not, ALAA quietly passes into oblivion and the roads close to dedicated collectors of nature's treasures, closing one by one. The ALAA is currently on life support and we need your assistance.

from AFMS Newsletter, 6/08

Picking Prepolish by John Franke

Faceters, prepolish at 3,000 and finish at 50,000. If you use 8,000 diamond to prepolish, your material will pit and take 10 times as long to polish!

via Pegmatite, 3/07; from The Facet Shoppe



Shows

July 2-6

All-Rockhounds Pow Wow Club, Annual Show
Fairgrounds
Madras, Oregon

July 26 & 27: 9 am - 5 pm

**Washington Agate & Mineral Society and
The Tenino Rock Cruisers**
2008 Rock & Gem Rendezvous
Parkside Elementary School
Central Ave. E.
Tenino, WA



Internet Addresses



Peregrine Rocks
<http://www.peregrine-rocks.com/>
from Breccia, 3/08

Rockhounding Arkansas
<http://rockhoundingar.com/>

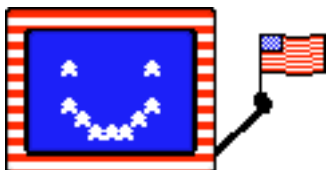
Australian Opals
<http://www.australianopals.com/>

Internet Opals
<http://www.internetopals.com/>

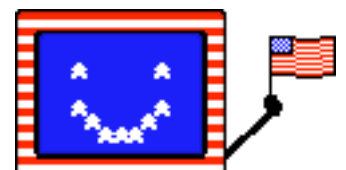
The Virtual Fossil Museum
<http://www.fossilmuseum.net/>

San Diego Natural history Museum Kids' Habitat (has sections on minerals & fossils)
<http://www.sdnhm.org/kids/>

How Stuff Works? Earth Science
<http://science.howstuffworks.com/earth-science-channel.htm>



Backyard Nature
<http://www.backyardnature.net/>



Oz Fossils
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/ozfossil/>