



the BEMS Tumbler

July
2009

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

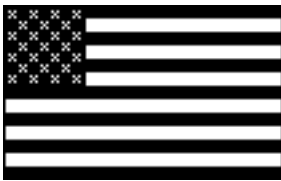
Next Meeting:
July 9, 2009
7:30 p.m.

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



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,
Brad Hopkins on July 17,
Gerald Stickman on July 17,
Virginia Bird on July 18,
Les Akers on July 19,
Sherri Anderson on July 20,
Jeffrey Brannan on July 21,
Dan Clayton on July 24,
Jane Davis on July 24,
Larry Kissinger on July 25,
Monica Schuster on July 27,
Mary Kissinger on July 28,
Cindy Waters on July 30,
Roger Pullen on July 30,
and also remember to wish a
Happy Anniversary to
Steve & Judy Brooks on July 5,
Mike & Janet Tanaka on July 5 (29 years),
Ashlea & Nicholas Fulmer on July 9 (4 years),
Leonard & Dorothy Bahr on July 14 (47 years),
Dick & Patricia Morgan on July 14 (47 years),
Malcolm & Karin Wheeler on July 14 (33 years)



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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 2009

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

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

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>**

Cleaning Tip by J Bourne

Super Windex does a really super job of taking dried latex paint off your hands (and arms and glasses - depending on how sloppy you are) after a day of painting in the hot sun! Use it just as if it were a liquid hand soap - lather up and rinse. It even takes the paint off your fingernails!

via Quarry Quips, 3/06; from ShinSkinner News, 9/05



July



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			AllRockhounds ¹ Pow-Wow Jewelry Class	AllRockhounds ² Pow-Wow	AllRockhounds ³ Pow-Wow Faceting Class	AllRockhounds ⁴ Pow-Wow
AllRockhounds ⁵ Pow-Wow	Lapidary Shop ⁶	Lapidary Casting Jewelry ⁷	Jewelry Class ⁸	General Meeting ⁹ 	Faceting Class ¹⁰	Yellow Hill Trip ¹¹
¹²	Lapidary Shop ¹³	Lapidary Casting Jewelry ¹⁴	Jewelry Class ¹⁵	¹⁶	Faceting Class ¹⁷	Slmon Creek Trip ¹⁸
Mt Higgins Trip ¹⁹	Lapidary Shop ²⁰	Lapidary Casting Jewelry ²¹	Jewelry Class ²²	²³	Faceting Class ²⁴	WAMS & Tenino Show ²⁵
Tenino Show ²⁶ Lake Wenatchee Trip	Lapidary Shop ²⁷	Lapidary Casting Jewelry ²⁸	Jewelry Class ²⁹	AFMS/NFMS Show ³⁰	Faceting Class ³¹ AFMS/NFMS Show	

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 by Appointment)
 Jewelry Class Hours.....Wednesday.....10:00 am to 5:00 pm

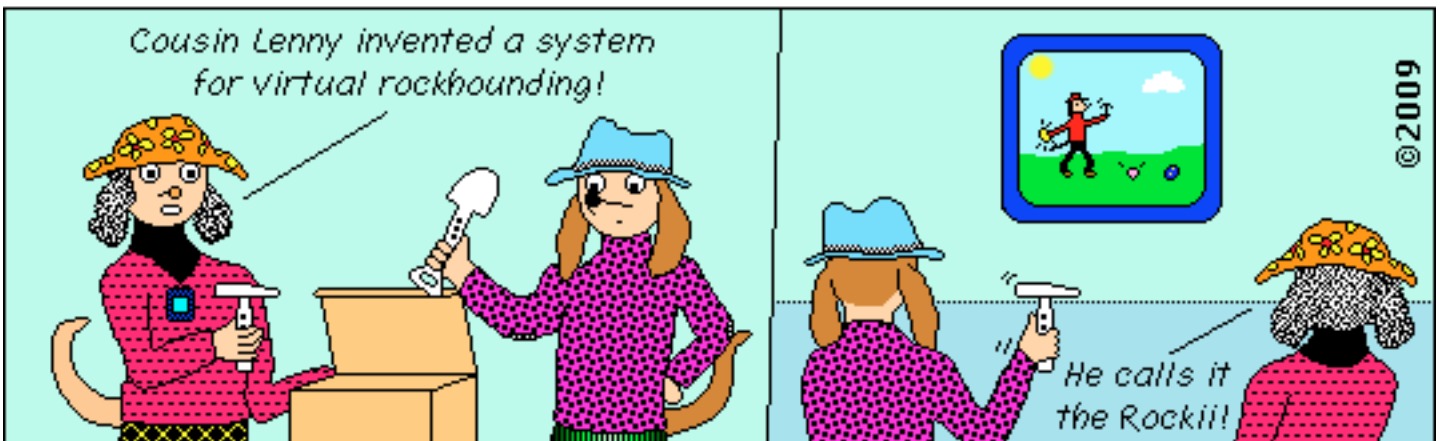
Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

South Sound Show Committee Meeting...No meeting this month

BEMS Board Meeting:.....Monday (10 days prior to General Meeting).....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



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

BEMS Board Meeting Minutes June 1, 2009



by Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

Members Attending

- President Bob Pattie* *Treasurer Rich Russell*
- Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar* *Shop Teacher Dick Morgan*
- Jewelry Teacher Carolyn Sealfon* *Library Stephanie Jurado-Smith*
- Field Trips Bill Cook* *Editor Keith Morgan*
- Guests Jackie Pattie, Pat Morgan, Maya Smith*

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Badges & sign-ups are working.

The importance of filling out the Recreation Survey was stressed.

Still working on the criteria for the new club awards.

The editor was told to start mentioning the upcoming picnic on August 9, at Liberty Park in Renton at around noon, which takes the place of our regular meeting, so members can start planning ahead.

Mineral Council has revised maps for sale.

At the Mineral Council meeting the speaker will be a representative of the Wenatchee/Okanogan area discussing the road plan.

The Department of Agriculture has a freeze on all activity in roadless areas.

The Department of Natural Resources money from gas taxes on recreational vehicles is not being used to maintain roads.

The shop is working on the 24" saw, it needs a pulley.

Carolyn Sealfon is back to teach Jewelry classes.

Health & Welfare reported that Esther McKain was home feeling good.

The webmaster has updated the South Sound Show page, putting pictures for each year on their own page, rather than one long page.

It was decided that the Genie we had gotten from a former member will be put up in an auction for club members. A list of high bids will be put up in the shop & on the webpage. Bids will start at \$500 & bidding will run for 60 days. Bids must be given to Rich Russell or on a sheet of paper, signed with bid, in the collection box in the shop. The winner will be announced at the Club picnic on August 9.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

The July Meeting will be the last chance to buy tickets to the AFMS Endowment Funds drawing. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Pictures of the prizes are at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2009.htm>

There will be no August Board Meeting.

The August General Meeting is replaced with the Club Picnic to be held on August 9 at Liberty Park in Renton around noon. It will be a potluck, so bring a dish you would like to share. More information & a map will be printed in the next Tumbler.

Editor's Notes: 60 Years of BEMS

It's been suggested that I do a special for the Club's 60 years of existence, but I'm not sure what should be included. So what do you want to see in a 60 year special? Does anyone have any articles or essays they'd like to write for it? If I'm going to produce one I'd like to have it ready before the Show in November so we can hand out copies to visitors. So suggestions, ideas, thoughts, articles willingly accepted!

Editor's Notes: Articles By You

What does that mean, you may wonder. In truth articles for the newsletter actually cover a wide area. It could be a little autobiographical piece about yourself & how you became a rockhound. It could be a report on a field trip you took, or a rock book you read. It could be an article on how to do something rockhounding related. It could be a cartoon you drew or a poem you wrote. Heck, I've even published Letters To The Editor.

It's so simple one wonders why editors have such trouble getting members to write them?

Mike Blanton would like dark blue glass for tumbling & a few ounces of beeswax, if you have either let him know.

BEMS General Meeting Minutes June 11, 2009

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30

There were 3 guests in attendance.

Minutes approved as written.

Tumbler Editor and Webmaster's Report: The web page was updated with photos from each previous year's South Sound Gem Shows.

Treasurer's Report: Many members have been using the shops. Remember to pay the shop fees before use. There are new WSMC colored maps of collecting sites on sale for \$9.

Shop Reports: The faceting class is going well. Class hours will be extended starting next Friday when Cliff retires. There are still problems with the 24" saw. Monday night lapidary classes are doing well also.

Library: The library was not opened tonight as the club was not able to get into the normal meeting room due to maintenance being performed.

Health & Welfare: Esther is improving and hopes to attend the next meeting.

Federation Report: Mike is still selling AFMS raffle tickets for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The NFMS is looking for clubs to sponsor the 2010 and 2011 annual shows. Mike briefly mentioned 3 resolutions that will be voted on at the annual meeting. The club recommended voting yes on all 3.

Field Trip Report: The MC trip to First Creek will be on 6/27-28. The next Boeing sponsored trip will not be until 9/19.

Mineral Council: A Forest Service representative attended the May meeting. There was no additional news to report on road closures. The Forest Service is still evaluating classifications for roads. The current administration's directive will not allow anything to happen in road-less areas until a study is complete. Under this directive road-less areas are being treated like wilderness areas.

South Sound Show: As of the last meeting 50% of the vendors have submitted their payments. There will not be a July meeting. The committee will be making the last payment to the Puyallup fairgrounds in August. Members are being asked to reserve display cases by August or the space will be given to vendors. There was some discussion at the meeting around improving the silent auction for children. It was noted that at the last show there was a silent auction area set up for kids with low starting bids.

Old Business: No old business discussed.

New Business: Bob mentioned a rockhound collection sale on 6/13-14 and the Shelton Club's First Annual Rocktoberfest. There is a used Genie that was donated to the club that will be put up for auction on the club web site for 2 months with a starting bid of \$500. The winning bidder will have 60 days to pay or the offer will go to the next highest bidder.

Program: There was no program. Members socialized and had fun.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14.

Displays:

Adrian Lawler - Nephrite jade adz

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks

For those who wish to keep up with what the Bureau of Land Management is doing they have a website, the BLM Spokane District Office is at <http://www.blm.gov/or/st/en.html>

Plans they currently have up are at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/>

There have been a number of reports about confrontations rockhounds have had with state or federal authorities. If this happens to you the book *Confrontation In The Field Rockhunters Guide To Field Encounters* by Alice L. Gustin recommends:

1. Be Courteous. Always.
2. Use maps to determine where you are, have both parties mark & sign your map.
3. Always ask for identification. Write it down, name, address place of employment.
4. If you have a camera, request & attempt to take a picture if identification is refused!
5. Get license plate number of their vehicle.
6. Ask for the confronter to place a location mark on a map & both sign the map. If you disagree with location, take pictures of a 360 circle around you & place your mark on the map with your signature.
7. If any personal item is confiscated, request a receipt with the date, location, & name of confiscator, & description of the item. Once again a photo may help.

They also recommend taking the matter up with the person's superior.

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

On the birth of our country why have so many people forgotten our Constitution?



People want the government to give them everything instead of working for it themselves. Our country was founded by people who only wanted government to provide a national defense and allow for interstate commerce. Now the lazy want government to run their lives just like it was in the days of King George III.

Spencer Opal by Mike Baldwin

Spencer, Idaho, population 38, is home to one of the largest opal deposits in the United States. Two lost deer hunters discovered opal in this area in 1948 and the first claim was filed in 1952,

Today there are four commercial opal companies there. Though white is the most common color around the world, Spencer miners find rare red, pink and blue opal.

The primary formation of the Spencer opal mines is a rhyolite and obsidian flow filled with gas pockets. The secondary deposit is a solution of silica and water, trapped within the rock and released by a series of geysers. As a result of several eruptions over a period of time, the opal is found in layers. Most of the layers are very thin. These thin layers, hydrothermally deposited inside hollow geodes, produce some extremely high quality precious opal which is very transparent with great color intensity. Opal is brittle, heat sensitive, and it scratches or breaks easily. Some varieties even self destruct through loss of water. Even with these delicate qualities, opal remains as a precious gemstone, due to its unsurpassed beauty.

The word opal is derived from the Roman word "opalus" and the Greek work "opallios", meaning "to see a change of color." The Greek word was a modification of the ancient Indian Sanskrit name for opal, "upala" which meant "precious stone." To combine the derivatives of the opal name, opallios upala, would yield the meaning, "to see a change of color precious stone." Opal has been a treasured gemstone for centuries. Romans adored the opal as a token of hope and purity. Greeks thought that opal yielded foresight and prophecy. Arabs thought that it was a gift from heaven, and Asians viewed it as sacred.

Opal is the most colorful of all gems. The flashes of iridescent color seen in an opal change dependent upon the angle from which the stone is viewed. The value of an opal is determined by the intensity and distribution of these flashes of color.

Crazing (internal cracking) may occur in opals if they are removed from damp conditions and allowed to dry too quickly. Crazing may also take place from vibration, such as during the cutting and polishing of specimens. A very gradual drying process over months, or sometimes even years, can sometimes stabilize stone and allow it to be cut and polished. Opals which show a play of color are called precious opals and those that do not show a play of color are called common opal. The most desired opal is a black opal, which has a dark blue, dark green, or black background and a strong play of color. White opal (white, yellow, or cream) with a strong play of color is also highly desired followed by Mexican fire opal, which is a transparent or translucent orange-red common opal.

The Spencer Opal Mines are located in South-eastern Idaho, about 70 miles north of Idaho Falls along I-15, 70 miles west of Yellowstone National Park, and 80 miles south of Dillon, Montana. The mines are not open to the public, but there are several times throughout the year when you can dig (for a fee). For more information about the mines and digging times, call (208) 374-5476 (May to October) (928) 859-3752 (November-April) or email Info@SpencerOpalMines.com

References: *Idaho's high desert Hides Opal*: http://www.opalstore.com/news_1.htm, November 5, 2003

Headquarters of the Original Spencer Opal Mine; <http://www.SpencerOpalMine.com> November 5, 2003

via Breccia, 3/06; via Gem Cutters News, 10/05; from the Rock Collector, 2/04



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Clearing Up Misperceptions About The FRA Program by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Jr. Activities Chair

The Number One goal of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America program is to reach out to as many kids as possible to fan whatever budding interest they may have in rocks, fossils, and lapidary arts. In messages I've received via email, in talking with folks at gem shows and annual Federation meetings, and via the grapevine, I've become aware of a number of misperceptions about the AFMS/FRA program, and some of these are standing in the way of our goal. I'd like to clear up several of the more common misperceptions I've heard and encourage you to actively enroll each and every child in each and every club into FRA.

Misperception 1: To sign your juniors and pebble pups into FRA, you must have a whole group of kids, a youth leader, and a formal, structured youth program within your society. Not so! I constantly hear from folks that their society doesn't have enough kids to start the FRA program, or that their board of directors resists starting a youth group (that one always turns my head!). We want the program to be as inclusive as possible, and you don't need a big, formal group. If your society has just one child, sign that child up! We'll send an FRA membership badge, and they'll have a stronger sense of belonging to the community of your club. You don't need to wait until you have a whole roomful of kids and a youth leader. Start the ball rolling with a single child!

Misperception 2: To be in FRA, you actively need to implement the Badge Program. Not so! The badge program was set up to provide just one source of structured activities, but you don't need to use it at all to enroll your kids into FRA. In working with kids in your society, you can use your own activities or commercial sets of activities (like the great packets developed by Diamond Dan or activities sold by Ward's or Edmund Scientifics), or simply have your club's kids participate in the regular workshops, shows, and field trips your club undertakes in its normal course of business. The Badge Program is simply meant to serve as one option among many to utilize with your kids.

Misperception 3: To use the FRA Badge Program, you need to set up a formal schedule and arrange group activities with all the kids in your club. Not so! A lot of folks tell me they'd like to use the badge program, but it's just too hard to schedule times when all the kids can get together, especially between after-school soccer, band, baseball, etc. I encourage you to be as flexible as possible with the Badge Program. A number of the activities are a lot more fun if done within a group, but don't let the inability schedule a time get in the way. Allow for individual "independent study" and "home-schooling" for motivated juniors. The back-up pages in the Badge Manual were developed to give folks with minimal background what they need to guide kids through the activities, and these back-up pages can be shared with parents to work with their kids on their own at home. So give parents a copy of the manual and encourage them to sit down with their kids to pick out activities they'd like to do. All we need in order to send a child a badge is a responsible adult - a parent or designated club member - to sign off to indicate successful completion, and a badge will be on the way to mark that child's accomplishments with a colorful, tangible reward.

Misperception 4: To use the FRA Badge Program and award badges to your kids, you must follow the manual to the letter. Not so! When they've received the manual, some folks have said its size looks daunting, that the badge program seems designed for the "Eagle Scouts" among their junior members, and that some of the activities may be too involved for younger members. But as I note in the Introduction to the manual, you're encouraged to adjust the level of each activity to best match ages and abilities of your club's kids. You don't need to follow each activity exactly as laid out. Modify, where necessary simplify, but above all utilize the program! The goal is to help kids have fun while learning, so if you see a different spin on a particular activity that'll work better with your kids, by all means, take that spin, and then let's reward the kids with badges.

Misperception 5: If a society doesn't have any kids, the society can't do anything with the FRA program. Actually, this seems pretty self-evident, and I myself held this misperception until a couple of local societies showed me the way. One society in Texas lacks junior members, so they went to where the kids are! They're using the FRA Fossils activities and badges with local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, hoping it might serve to attract kids to the club. Another society sponsors a geology club in one of their local schools that now uses the Badge Program. I personally have found such examples of resourcefulness inspiring!

So my basic message? Let's not make things complicated nor let misperceptions get in the way. Rather than looking for reasons not to enroll kids into FRA, let's follow the example of those clubs that went to where the kids are and get creative with a program that's been set up for every club, even those with just a single child member, or no children at all! Don't have "enough" kids? Don't want to start until you hold endless debates at board meetings about starting a juniors group? Don't know if you want to use the Badge Program? Don't know how to get started? Well, "don't" isn't exactly an inspiring word; in fact, it's a word often used to beat down the inner child within us all. Don't let "don't" get in the way of that key first step toward inspiring our children. I urge one and all to call me today to sign up each and every child. It's the first step toward bringing along the next generation of rockhounds while, as always, having fun!

from AFMS Newsletter, 4/08

Murphy's Laws of Mineral Collecting

1. The specimens that you like will cost more than you have.
2. The specimens that you hate will always be on sale.
3. The specimen you love and order, will be sold the day before you order.
4. The day after you receive the specimen you settled for instead, the sale on the one you really wanted will fall through and it will again be available, but this time it will be more that what you have.

via Golden Spike News, 2/07; via AFMS Newsletter, 2/01; from Petrograph

What Makes A Great Cab? by Sheila Bergmann

Cabs are made by the millions, but what does it take to be “great”. You have a slab, saw, material, templates and grinding machine. Well, let’s see if I can help take some of the mystery out of making your cab.

1. Making a choice of a patterned stone will need a simple setting. Patterns come from all types of agates and jaspers plus other stones. Lines of color may be straight, circles, irregular or dots. Once the pattern of the stone is picked you need a simple setting. You want the pattern of the stone to be the focal point.

2. The solid colored stone can be the focal point with a simple or patterned setting. The fancy setting may give you a look of elegance.

3. With the fancy stone and you add a fancy frilly setting it may look cluttered. There are some people that like the cluttered look. As the saying goes. “It is in the eye of the beholder”.

A. Let’s look at the solid colored stones. They do not seem to give us any trouble when we make them. A solid is a solid throughout. You can go with a standard cab or get creative. With a fancy setting you draw more attention to the setting than the stone. Simple settings will let the stone speak out. With a nice color you can add a setting so both stand out and blend together.

B. With the patterned stone you have some problems that come with making a cab. They are not like extruded cookie dough with hearts or shamrocks inside. Patterns change within the rock. The patterns change what you have in the slab will not be the same after cabbing. You can take a guess at what it will be like. Just like any rock your slab is a mystery until it is cut. As for change, some times a little or a lot. The setting should allow the stone to do the speaking. Keep it simple. There are many agates with patterns, some jasper, malachite, rhodochrosite and many others to pick from.

C. Free form cabs of the solid and patterned would do very well with a simple setting. Form, stone, color and pattern all speak out loud and clear. One might have some luck with a fancy setting, but I would tend to say, not that well.

via Hy Grader, 1/06; via Cedar Valley Gems; from Earth Science News

Are You Confused? Carat, Karat, Caret, Carrot

Carat = a standard unit of mass used for precious stones, especially diamonds, and is equal to 200 milligrams.

Karat = a unit of proportion of gold in an alloy equal to $\frac{1}{24}$ part of pure gold.

Caret = a mark made on printed or manuscript material to show where something such as a letter or word should be inserted.

In the United States, the caret is usually made just under the line. Other cultures invert the caret and place it above the line.

Carrot = the favorite food of Bugs Bunny.

How can these be remembered?

The homeowner hid her 7-carat stone in a coffee carafe; a true carat carafe!

Karen practiced karate to ward off thugs who were after her 18 karat gold watch.

If you drink too much claret, you will need to insert too many carets into your missive.

Do parrots munch on carrots?

from Breccia, 7/09

Necronite is a type of feldspar that when struck gives off an odor of rotting flesh.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



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

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 1 - 5** *All Rockhounds Pow-Wow* - Gem and Mineral show at **Jefferson County Fair Grounds in Madras Oregon** - Daily field trips to dig for Agate, Jasper, Thunder Eggs, and Petrified Wood on private land for a fee - Seventy-five vendors with everything from rough rock to finished jewelry. Activities going on daily, with our auction on Friday night. There is no charge for the show.
Membership is required for field trips. \$7.50 per person or \$15.00 per family, includes up to 17 yrs.
Pauline Miller 360-658-8091 paulinem280@aol.com
Rocky Mc Call 360-629-2515 rm711@tgi.net
- July 11** *North Seattle Club* - **Yellow Hill** - Jasp-Agate - You will need digging tools (3/4 mile hike) - Meet at 9:00 AM at West Fork Teanaway Camp
Christina Morrisey, cmvw@verizon.net
- July 18** *Southwest Mineral Society* - **Salmon Creek** - Agate, jasper - You will need digging tools - Meet at 9:00 AM at I-5 exit 63 Park & Ride
Dave Roth (360) 295-3567
- July 19** *Washington Agate Mineral Society* - **Mt Higgins** - Rhodonite - You will need hard rock tools, tough tires - Meet at 9:00 AM at Oso closed gas station
Mike Messenger (360) 456-6930 wams1939@comcast.net
- July 26** *West Seattle club* - **Lake Wenatchee** - Garnet, Actinolite, Talc - You will need screen & digging tools - Meet at 9:00 AM at Ranger Station
Brian Waters, bwaterss2000@yahoo.com

Is Your Equipment Safe? by David E. Rich, Safety and Field Trips Chair

It is the middle of collecting time already! Time to take a good look at your equipment for safety. First of all, how is your emergency pack? If you had to use it, remember to replenish your stock of bandages, ointment, etc. Always have an emergency pack or kit with you in the field. Our club has a large, near professional type that we take with us on outings. We also encourage club members to bring their own first aid kits. Make sure it is in good shape: medications and cloth bandages age and deteriorate (don't we all!)

How is your eye protection? Goggles thrown in the rock bag all dusty and dirty? Safety glasses all scratched and dirty, or broken? Clean the goggles, and wash the safety glasses. If your equipment is not in wearable condition, no one will wear it! Eye protection should be a mandatory requirement on all field trips - flying pieces of rock are no joke!

How are your tools? Inspect your hammers regularly. Are the heads loose or handles cracked? What about your chisels? Are they dull, bent, or broken? Re-place any broken tool. Sharpen chisels and all other tools that take an edge.

Now is a good time to make sure you have your field bags ready to go. Some of the best hunts have taken place after a spontaneous decision to stop. And be kind to those who come after - remember to fill in your holes. Don't leave anything behind. If you carried it in, carry it back out. Have fun, but think safety!

via GCLFS Newsletter, 9/08; from MWF Newsletter, 9/08

Patching Soft Stones

Some soft stones such as malachite and azurite can be patched to fill in small pits and cracks by taking a scrap of the material to be patched, crushing it and mixing it with epoxy. Clean the stone thoroughly with alcohol, coat the pits or cracks with epoxy, then fill with mixture of epoxy and powdered stone, working it well into the crack with a toothpick or pin, leaving a little above the surface of the stone. Let dry completely, sand wet and polish, using care not to get the stone hot in sanding or polishing.

via Golden Spike News, 5/09; via Strata Gem, 5 09; via The Slate, 9/08; from The Geode



Shows

July 1 - 5

All Rockhounds Pow-Wow Club Of America

60th Annual Pow-Wow

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Madras, Oregon

July 25 & 26: Saturday 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday 9 am - 5 pm

Washington Agate & Mineral Society & Tenino Rock Cruisers Show

Parkside Elementary School

Stage St. South, I-5 exit 88

Tenino, WA

July 30 - August 2: 10 am - 5 pm

Billings Gem & Mineral Club & NFMS/AFMS Combined show

Holiday Inn Grand Montana

5500 Midland Rd.

Billings Montana



Internet Addresses

Museum Of The Rockies

<http://www.museumoftherockies.org>

from Rocky Trails, 5/09

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

<http://www.vertpaleo.org>

Bonanza Opal Mines

<http://www.bonanzaopals.com>

from Breccia, 5/09

Franklin & Sterling Hill Minerals

<http://franklin-sterlinghill.com/>

<http://www.fluorescents.com/>

Charles B. Ward Fluorescent Minerals

<http://www.fluorescentminerals.com/>

Polman Minerals

<http://www.polmanminerals.com/index.html>

Microscopy-UK

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/>

Scott's Rock Shop

<http://www.scottsrockshop.com/>

