THE BEMS TUMBLER

June 2007

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

Next Meeting:
June 14, 2007
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 will be Part 2 of the video "*Diamonds in the Rough*"

This month remember to wish a Happy Birthday to
Diana Noble on June 4,
Leonard Bahr on June 7,
Carolyn Mackey on June 24,
June Farran on June 25,
Margaret Squires on June 27,
Brenda Haworth on June 29,
Dick Morgan on June 29,
and also remember to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Eugene & Wanita Martin on June 5 (53 years),
Sharon & Jack Berosik on June 23 (45 years),
Herman & Vera Gelbach on June 30 (58 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 2007

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.
Vice President John Carter
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Keith Alan Morgan
Director Dick Morgan
Director Bill Cook
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Michael Blanton
Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie
Program John Carter
Refreshment Esther McKain
Membership Keith & Dick Morgan
Health & Welfare Steve Mackey
Library Charlotte Churchill
Raffle/Display Keith & Dick Morgan
Field Trip Bill Cook
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Keith Alan Morgan
Shop Operations Leslie Brooks
Shop Instructors:
Casting Joe Poston
Faceting Dan Clayton
Faceting Cliff Frome
Jewelry Joe Poston
Lapidary Dick Morgan

2007 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**

Utah Septarian Nodules are found about 15 miles east of Zion National Park, and were formed in an ancient sea floor during the Cretaceous period, 70 million years ago. They can still be found weathered out of the hills, but the good ones are 20 to 30 feet underground, being dug out by bulldozers at the mines. Some nodules are completely filled, while others are hollow. Composition of septarians: yellow centers are calcite, gray rock is limestone, brown lines are aragonite, and the white or clear areas are barite.

via The Geode, 5/00; via The Pegmatite, 12/99; via The RockCollector, 11/98; from The Rockfinder

A plateau is a high form of flattery. from AFMS Newsletter - 12/05 - 1/06

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Faceting Class	2
3	4 Lapidary Shop	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8 Faceting Class	9
10	11 Lapidary Shop	12 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	13	14 General Meeting	15 Faceting Class	16
17	18 Lapidary Shop	19 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	20	21	22 Faceting Class	23
24	25 Lapidary Shop	26 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	27	28	29 Faceting Class	30

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

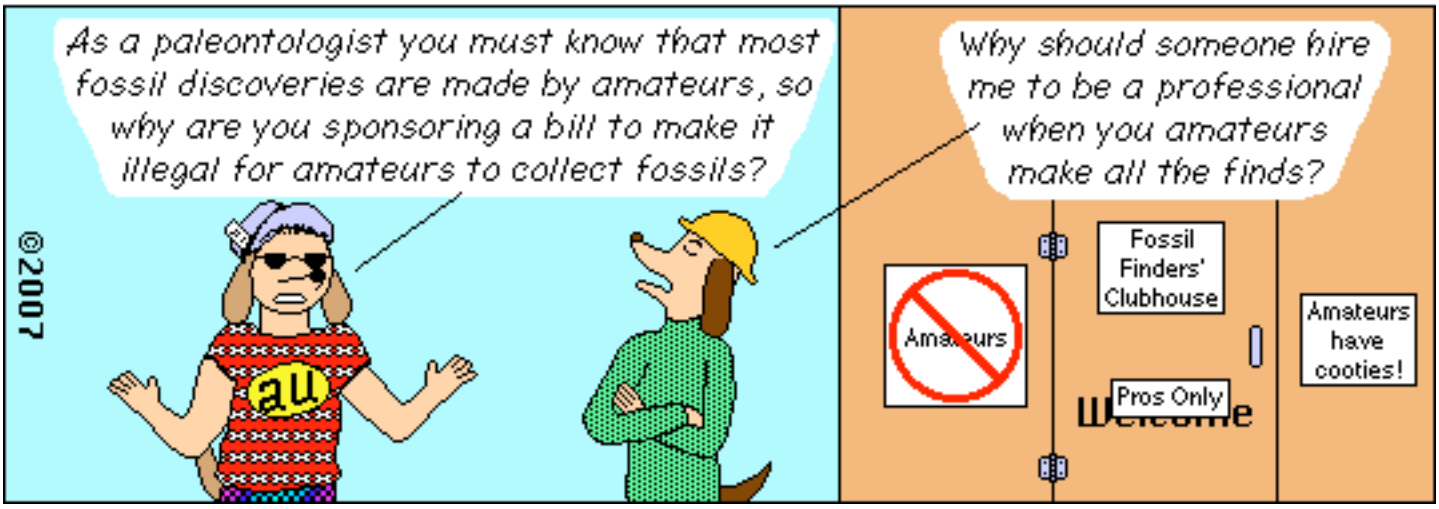
More Field Trip info can be found on Page 9
More *Show* info can be found on Page 10

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:……Friday……4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

BEMS Board Meeting:……June 5……9:30 am to 10:00 am
BEMS General Meeting:……June 14……7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound **by KAM**



BEMS Board Meeting Minutes May 1, 2007

by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Members present

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.	*Vice-President John Carter*
Treasurer Rich Russell	*Secretary Keith Morgan*
Shop Operations Les Brooks	*Shop Teacher Dick Morgan*
Librarian Charlotte Churchill	*Refreshments Esther McKain*
Field Trip Chairman Bill Cook	*Guests Karin Wheeler & Pat Morgan*

Meeting began at 9:47 am, President Malcolm Wheeler presiding.

Webmaster's Report: The Webmaster had a temporary webpage up.

Treasurer's Report: Money went out to buy stuff for the shop. $342 went for faceting equipment.

Shop Report: The motor for the 10" saw went up in smoke. A replacement will be bought.

Power strips with surge protectors are a requirement so some will be picked up for the shops.

Esther McKain has some extra 100 lb cans of grit that she will sell to the club.

Looking at getting an 8 or 11" flat lap.

Field Trip: Bill will try to get a trip set up for the end of May.

Old Business: Malcolm & Bob will need rocks for the kids when they speak about rocks at the Cottage Grove school in Oregon.

Set-up for producing the badges will be $645 (about $10 a badge). Malcolm asked Rich to check with Elliott Woodward to see if he can provide a better deal.

Several members are going to Pratt's Institute on Boeing's Quality Through Training Program.

New Business: It was voted to go back to monthly board meetings. The meetings are still on the Tuesday 9 days before the second Thursday & start at 9:30 am.

Esther was authorized to buy a platter for the next meeting.

Looking to mount the old Risher Award plaques to be displayed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

AFMS President's Message by Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

I recently received a letter from one of our members who was extremely incensed over the fossil bill, and the fact that is backed by many paleontologists. This individual felt that the bill indirectly insinuated that only qualified personnel should be allowed to do Science. Quite correctly, this individual pointed out that science is for every one, not just an elite few. This individual went on to vent against paleontologists for supporting the fossil bill, and suggested that rockhounds boycott the activities supported by paleontologists to reduce their funding, when (not if) the fossil bill passes.

While I don't believe that a boycott would be effective (it would be too late, and we are too small an organization to materially affect funding levels), it got me to thinking. Some kind of fossil bill will eventually pass, maybe not this session of congress, but it will pass. We can fight it, we can modify it, but we cannot stop it. Too many paleontologists and their allies are behind it. So, what do we do then?

What if all of the fossil collectors in clubs affiliated with the AFMS became "Professional Collectors"? There are all kinds of schools that offer degrees in a wide variety of subjects. Why couldn't the AFMS find a school or university that would offer an Associate Degree in Paleontology for the purpose of collecting specimens?

Since the vast majority of new fossil finds have been made by rockhounds, a school or university that is interested in fossils would be happy to have an army of collectors sending them specimens for evaluation. The proviso would be that common fossils could be kept by the collector.

When some form of the bill passes, we need to carefully read the wording about what constitutes a "professional" collector. I don't think a Ph.D. in Paleontology would be required; I suggest that some lesser degree (and some lesser course of on-line studies) might do the trick.

It is a thought. If you can't lick them, join them. from AFMS Newsletter, 5/07

Editor's Note: Whoops!

Dennis & Carolee Swenson have been married for 53 years, not the 71 years I had listed. For some reason I typed in the wrong date on my birthdays & anniversaries list.

Speaking of the list, if you want your birthday and/or anniversary mentioned on the front page of the Tumbler make sure I have the correct month, day, and/or year. Also if you don't want your birthday or anniversary mentioned let me know as well.

To clean your sanders, hold a piece of crepe rubber against the sander. An old crepe soled shoe will do the trick.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 3/07; via SCFMS Newsletter, 1-2/04; via The Southwest Gem, 12/03; from The Load Down

BEMS General Meeting Minutes May 10, 2007

 by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Meeting began at 7:40 pm, Steve Mackey presiding. 38 members attended.

Minutes of the last meeting approved as printed in the Tumbler.

Editor's Report: Everything is fine.

Webmaster Report: The new address for the club's external website is **http://www.bemsonline.com** or **http://bemsonline.com**

Shop Report: Dick reported that Monday Night Classes are doing well, between 4 - 11 tend to show up.

Field Trip: There will be a club trip to Greenwater on May 19 & 20.

Sign-up sheets were put out to see if there was interest in a bus trip to the Rice Museum in Oregon.

Library: Steve Mackey donated *The Amber Forest* to the library.

June Holt, Wuyan Chui & Phil Eversole have checked things out that need to be returned.

Health & Welfare: Betty Swift liked the flowers the club sent & thanked us. The memorial service for Walt will be in July.

Federation Report: The mid-year meeting will be in Kennewick. There will be discussion of changing by-laws. Read them in the Northwest Newsletter & we will vote at the next meeting.

South Sound Show: Malcolm Wheeler is the co-chair & deals with Security

Considering having separate door prizes for kids.

New Business: Hancock Retreat September 3-9.

Program: The video *Diamonds In The Rough*.

Displays:

Les Brooks - Motor from the 10" saw after "the burn".

Jerry Heiser - Saddle Mountain wood, fossil clam shells, chicken track sandstone, angel wing

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks

Len Bahr - Synthetic corundum (ruby), cristinite, sunstone

Webmaster Spinnings by Keith Morgan

The new external website for the Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society can be reached by typing in either **http://www.bemsonline.com** or **http://bemsonline.com**

So far there are four pages up: the home page listing the basic facts of our club; the officers page telling who holds what position; the page to download copies of the online version of the Tumbler; & a page about the South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral Show.

I'm planning to add a links page, so club members with webpages you want listed send me the info.

I'm thinking about adding a page about how we help out in the community: giving talks in schools; tours for home schoolers; helping out the scouts with their geology badges; etc. Still figuring out the best way to present that.

So go have a look, let me know if I forgot something, need to correct or add something, or even just a suggestion for things to add. I can be reached at greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com or morgangraphix@yahoo.com or you can just talk to me at the next meeting.

New Board Meeting Schedule

The BEMS Board meetings are monthly once again & since they are 9 days before the second Thursday that creates some… oddities in the scheduling. Here is the revised Board meeting schedule for who want, or need, to attend them.

June 5, July 3, July 31, September 4, October 2, October 30, December 4.

Yep some months will have 2 meetings & others none.

Board meetings are 9:30 am to 10 am, although meetings have run longer, in the regular meeting rooms. If you have business for the Board, but can't attend contact one of the board members & see if they can bring it to the meeting.

The Seattle Times reported on May 5, that Clyde Friend has a 15 million year old petrified forest on his property. The trees are found standing up, but no roots have been found making scientists wonder if this was where they grew or if they were deposited here that way. The forest includes varieties of hickory, elm, maple and sweet gum. Mr. Friend would like the exact location of his find kept quiet and he has stopped selling for the time being after learning he was bamboozled by some buyers. The State Department of Natural Resources may require him to get a mining permit depending on how deep the dig extends.

Transparent stones should be polished on both front and back; otherwise, saw marks can show through and appear to be cracks.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 2/07; via Rock Rollers, 8/05; from Emerald Gems, 9/04

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

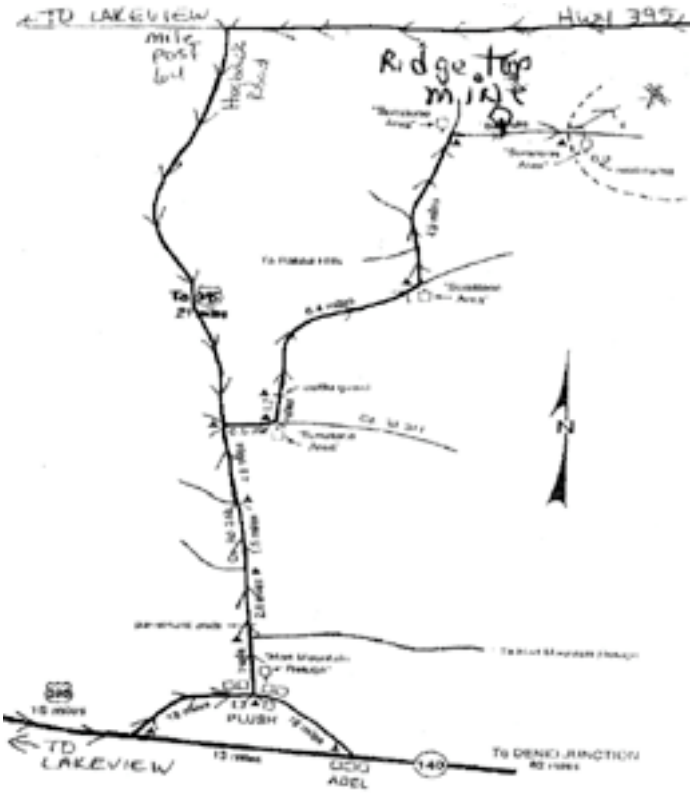
"Like father, like son" a famous old-time saying. Now many sons don't even know their fathers.

Graduation sounds good through school, but for sure you are not through with learning when you achieve it.

The School of Hard Knocks: you never graduate, you die before you are through learning.

A Note To The Club by Jerry K.F. Chilson

Last two weeks in June I will be at the sunstone dig in Oregon. Any club members that comes while I'm there can dig without fee, only a split of materials found.



A hole is dug, a rock is found
Before you leave, look around
There it is, a hole to fill
Put back the dirt, if you will
Filled now, at most a dip
It won't cause a nasty trip

Rocks by Lew Kintzler

Rubies are red, sapphires are blue,
Opals sparkle like morning dew.
A rainbow of gems. So who can say
Why the stones I find are yucky gray!

via Owyhee Gem, 6/00; via Hygrader, 5/06; via Rockhound Special, 4/06; via Rockytier, 3/06; from Outcroppings, 1/06

Paraiba Tourmaline: Redefining Blue

Neon. Fluorescent. Electric. Peacock. A new gemstone discovered in Brazil in 1989 left gem dealers searching for new adjectives to describe brilliant blue and green tourmalines that are more vivid than any ever before.

Tourmaline is the world's most colorful gemstone but, until the Paraiba deposit was found, no tourmaline had ever shown the sizzling turquoises, electric blues, rich twilight blues, and neon greens of the new discovery in Paraiba, Brazil. In fact, this color hasn't been seen with any gemstone variety.

The spectacular colors are due to the presence of a small amount of copper. But a recent study by the German Foundation for Gemstone Research also discovered a surprisingly high gold content.

The average gold content of the earth's crust is 0.007 parts per million. Paraiba tourmalines contain a remarkable 8.6 parts per million. If they weren't so beautiful, they might be in danger of being crushed to salvage the gold! The tourmalines are mined near a village called Sao Jose de Batalha in the state of Paraiba, Brazil. The area produced tourmaline for almost ten years, but the crystals were too fractured and broken to be cut into gemstones. Then the miners discovered a new vein of gem quality stones with the extraordinary bright shades of blue and green. The blues come in sizes up to eight carats and the greens up to twenty carats.

The tourmalines are found in a small hill near the village which is being mined laboriously by hand. The hand-excavated shafts and interconnected tunnels are up to 60 meters deep, and tourmaline is found only in small pencil-thin veins. Because of the difficulty in mining, the supply will always be limited and the tourmalines will always be rare and expensive.

Dealers all over the world - especially in Japan, the world's largest importer of these gemstones - are competing for the new Paraiba tourmaline, which means that it can command retail prices over $20,000 per carat for the finest specimens. Although this is more than other colors of tourmaline, it is very little when you consider how rare these gemstones are. Diamonds are quite common in comparison.

via Breccia, 4/07; via Gem and Mineral Journal, 2/05; via 2004 Scribe CD; from The Sierra Pelonagram, 6/03

Museum Quality And Other Misused Terms by Roger K. Pabian.

I have made some very interesting observations surfing the various online auction services such as e—Bay and Yahoo and have seen hundreds of inaccurate to fraudulent descriptions of merchandise offered by various sellers. Terms such as “Museum Quality” or “Flawless”. The term “Flawless” has been established and defined by the Federal Trade Commission — no imperfections can be observed on its surface or in its interior at ten-power magnification (lOX). Unfortunately there is no such easily workable definition for ‘“Museum Quality”. Perhaps we should look at the role of the museum — a place where one can view educational exhibits in a broad array of sciences.

We would do much better to use the term “Display Quality” for many specimens. Many very attractive specimens that are highly prized by their owners would likely find no spot in the museum because the accompanying data is absent.

“Collector Grade” is another nebulous term. It has no real definition but does not imply that a specimen would necessarily find a place in a museum but it would in some private collector’s cabinet.

“Old Estate” or “Vintage” are terms that often appear in the rock advertisements in magazines, online or auction services. What does “Old Estate” really mean? That Older is Better? Agates are often described as old material. Lake Superior Agates are about 1200 million years old and all Laguna Agates are 23 to 40 million years old. The implication is that material collected 50 years ago is better than that collected today. There were a lot of junky Laguna agates mined in 1950 along with the good ones. Some of the finest are being mined today. Agate prices may be higher today only due to inflation. What does “Vintage” mean? When applied to wines it can have a great deal of meaning.

Most of these terms are used by sources that have little knowledge, appreciation or understanding of the material they offer for sale. Buyer beware. Sellers are usually legally liable for misrepresented materials that they offer. Knowledge is one of the best defenses, but in the meantime, keep in mind that terms like “Museum Quality”, “Vintage” and ‘‘Old Estate” have little if any meaning.

via Gneiss Times, 4/03; via Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter, 2/03; via The Glacial Drifter, 9/02; from Pick & Shovel, 9/01

Rotary Flat Laps Vs. Wheels For Grinding, Shaping And Polishing Rocks by Val Carver

There are two basic types of machines available to shape, grind, sand and polish rocks. These are the vertical type wheel machines or the horizontal disc type of machines. Regardless of the type of grinding/sanding agent being used, that being silicon carbide or diamonds, the following discussion applies equally to both of them.

The basic configuration of a wheeled arbor is that of one or several grinding or sanding wheels lined up in a row sharing a common arbor shaft and driven by a common power source. Perhaps the most common name brand of this type of machine is the Diamond Pacific Genie. This type machine usually has several hard grind wheels for shaping the rock, one or several soft wheels for sanding and usually a vertical disc for polishing.

A rotary flat lap consists of a single interchangeable rotating horizontal disk. The disks have different-sized abrasives bonded to the top. The abrasives come in a variation of sizes from course to very ultra fine with the polishing being done on a disc charged with some type of polish compound. Currently the most popular of this type of machine is the Hi-Tech “All You Need” or the Ameritool “H.D. Universal.” The shaping/sanding/polishing of the rock is done on the flat spinning disc surface with the disk being changed from abrasive grade to abrasive grade. With both types of machines you must constantly drip water onto the work surface.

The wheel machines are great for production work. Usually if you have a multi-wheel machine you can move from grinding to sanding to polishing without stopping to change wheels. Please note, it is very hard to polish a true flat on a wheeled machine. Also wheeled machines are strictly limited to the size of rock you can work on. Also note the wheels are usually very close together and more likely than not when operating a wheeled machine you will trim your finger. Last, wheeled machines are bigger, heavier and cost more than an equivalent rotary flat lap.

A small 6" diameter 2-wheeled silicon carbide machine can be had for about $450.00, a 6"- 6 wheel all-diamond Genie about $2.045.00 with an 8" - 6" wheeled all-diamond machine going in the range of $2,100.00 up to $3,200.00.

The rotary flat lap is great for single piece work. They allow for true flat work as well as shape or contour work (I cut cabs on mine all the time). Rotary flat laps allow for much larger work to be done on them than an equal diameter wheeled arbor type machine. Current rotary flat laps are much more compact and lighter than an equal sized wheel machine. A complete 8" diameter all-diamond rotary flat lap can be had for $579.00.

I guess my recommendation is that if you want to do production work, get a wheeled machine. If you want to do ones or twos, or do true flat work, get a rotary flat lap.

via Breccia, 2/07; via The Rocky Reader, 2-3/07; via The Rockfinder, 1/07; from The Rock Rustler News

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X-ray images of pearl necklaces can reveal the inner pearl structure, allowing the observer to distinguish between the concentric growth rings of natural pearls, and the distinct mother-of-pearl beads under the nacre layers indicative of cultured pearls. Also, natural and cultured freshwater pearls will luminesce strongly (similar to fluorescence) in the presence of X-ray radiation, due to the manganese usually found in the nacre layer. Saltwater pearls generally do not luminesce.

via Pegmatite, 11/06; summarized from GIA Insider, 2/24/06

Agates

Agate is a banded, multicolored, variety of Chalcedony. It occurs in an infinite amount of colors and patterns, and no two Agates are alike. The extraordinary beauty and uniqueness of Agate is responsible for its great popularity. Agate must be polished to bring out its full charm; unpolished specimens are dull and ugly. It usually forms in rounded nodules or knobs, which must be sliced open to bring out the internal pattern hidden in the stone. Some varieties have two names that are equally used. Don't be surprised when you see the same definition for two different variety names. You will notice by some varieties that the word Chalcedony is used in the definition, instead of Agate (as is in the case in Dendritic Agate). This is NOT a mistake . These "varieties" are not really Agates, as they lack banding, and although they have the word agate in their name, are only a variety of Chalcedony. This list below cites only the well known and commonly used variety names.

Blue Lace Agate - Agate with light blue bands in a lacy or wavy pattern.

Botswana Agate - Agate from Botswana banded with fine, parallel lines, often with a preponderance of pink blending into white.

Brecciated Agate - Agate with broken fragments naturally cemented together

Cloud Agate - Grayish Agate with blurry, foggy patches of inclusions.

Crazy Lace Agate - Agate composed of twisting and turning bands of various colors.

Dendritic Agate - Chalcedony with tree-like or fernlike inclusions.

Enhydro Agate - Agate nodule partly filled with water. The water can be seen from the outside of the nodule when held up to the light. Also known as Enhydritic Agate.

Eye Agate - Agate with banded, concentric rings.

Fairburn Agate - Beautiful, unique, and rare; Fortification Agate from Fairburn, South Dakota.

Fire Agate - Agate with Goethite or Limonite inclusions, which cause the stone to be iridescent.

Fortification Agate - Agate with a pattern resembling a medieval fortress (i. e. imaginary moat and castle walls can be perceived).

Fossil Agate - Agate as a replacement of organic material.

Iris Agate - Iridescent Agate exhibiting all colors of the spectrum when sliced in thin slabs.

Laguna Agate - Beautiful and colorful type of Agate from Ojo Laguna, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Landscape Agate - Chalcedony with tree-like designs closely resembling scenery.

Mexican Lace Agate - Agate consisting of thin bands in a lacy or wavy pattern.

Moss Agate - Chalcedony with dense inclusions of green Hornblende.

Nipomo Agate - Agate with Marcasite inclusions found in Nipomo, California.

Onyx - Agate where the banding lines are straight and parallel, and consistent in band size.

Oregon Snakeskin Agate - White to cream Chalcedony with a wrinkled or cracked "skin", found in Oregon.

Plume Agate - Agate with inclusions in feather-like patterns.

Pom Pom Agate - Agate with yellow inclusions resembling pom poms.

Pseudo Agate - Agate as a replacement of organic material. *(Tumbler Editor's Note: Inaccurate term! See below.)*

Rainbow Agate - Iridescent Agate exhibiting all colors of the spectrum when sliced in thin slabs.

Sardonyx - Agate with straight parallel bands of brownish to red alternating with white or black bands.

Sagenite Agate - Clear Chalcedony containing inclusions of other materials

Scenic Agate - Chalcedony with tree-like designs closely resembling scenery.

Snakeskin Agate - Reddish brown Agate with black concentric bands.

Star Agate - Agate with banding lines in the formation of a star.

Sweetwater Agate - Chalcedony with star-shaped patterns of manganese oxide inclusions, found in Sweetwater River, Wyoming.

Thunder Egg - Nodule filled with Agate in the center.

Tube Agate - Agate with tube-like formations which are sometimes hollow.

via Breccia, 7/06; From The Agate Licker, 2/05; via The Burro Express, 3/05; via T-town Rockhound, 5/06

Pseudo-Agate by Dick Morgan

In another newsletter I saw the term Pseudo-agate used again! The term Pseudo-agate is a misnomer. Back in 1977 or '78 I was describing was a piece of petrified limb cast and in order to put it in proper perspective I called it Pseudo-wood because it had taken the shape of the wood & had round bands of agate inside it but it didn't replace the growth rings of the wood. I used the term pseudo, which means 'similar to' or 'same as' because it was a popular computer term at the time and in order to explain the material to children I put it in terms they would understand. So should you wish to use it again you should use the term Pseudo-wood instead.

from The BEMS Tumbler, 8/06

"Liquid Jade" is an old Chinese term for tea.

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**).

June 9 & 10 *Everett Rock Club* - **First Creek** - Geodes, Agate, Thundereggs - Meet at 9:00am at 29 Pines Camp - Bring digging & hardrock tools
Bob Johnson - (425) 231-0716

June 16 & 17 *North Idaho* - Emerald Creek - Garnet - Pre-registration required, 50 person limit per day
Diane Rose (208) 667-8591 or rockinroses2@msn.com

June 27 - July 1 *All-Rockhounds Pow-Wow Club of America* - **Madras, Oregon** areas - Thunder Eggs, Agate, Jasper & Petrified Wood - part of the annual show - Field Trip participation requires membership ($5 a person or $10 a family) - Bring rockhounding tools

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Sunburns And Skin Cancer by George Browne, SCFMS Safety Chair

Summer is a great time for outdoor activities, but with summer we also get heat and sunshine, which can be both wonderful and dangerous. However for this article I want to concentrate on sunshine or more specially our exposure or overexposure to this danger.

It may take less time to get sunburn than you realize. Some TV stations report a Sun Intensity Index with the weather. That index is the number of minutes it takes for fair unprotected skin to redden. It is true fair skin will burn quicker than dark skin, but not by much. Usually skin damage will occur within 20 minutes of constant exposure and even a shorter time in higher elevations. Sunburns are miserable and can and do lead to skin cancer. Skin cancer is one of the fastest growing forms of cancer encountered today and some forms are deadly.

How do you avoid this potential killer? By avoiding direct sun exposure to the skin. Wear long sleeve shirts and pants, (not shorts), and a hat. Use sunscreen with at least a SPF of 15. The SPF is the Skin Protection Factor. How do you use these numbers?

You start with the Sun Intensity Index or the time it takes you to burn. If you burn in 20 minutes then that times the SPF of the sunscreen to determine the maximum time the sunscreen will give protection. Example: If you burn in 20 minutes, your SPF 15 sunscreen will protect you for 300 minutes or 5 hours provided the sunscreen is not washed or rubbed off. The best advice is reapplying the sunscreen often.

Let me add something about the proper hat to wear. Skin cancer on the top of the ears is much, much more likely to occur on men than it is on women. Why? Because men often wear baseball or “give me” hats that leave the top of the ears exposed to the sun.

Women’s ears are more likely to be protected by their hair or they wear wide brim hats. So, men lose those billed caps when you are rockhounding and wear wide brimmed hats and use screen on you ears, especially on the left ear. Why? Because men will often drive with the window down looking for rocks and exposing their left ear to direct sunlight.

Enjoy summer, but protect yourself from excessive heat and exposure to the sun. For more detailed information on these subjects, go to the AFMS web site: www.amfed.org and click on the Safety link and look for sun related articles.

Unprotected sun exposure over time can cause cancer, which could result in death.

So be aware, take precautions and be safe.

via Breccia, 7/06; via Chips and Chatter, 7/06; from SCMS Newsletter, 5-6/06

A “leaverite” is the most common of all rocks. Some are more than four billion years old. They generally cannot be used for much because of their ugly nature. These rocks are said to be so ugly that only Mother Earth can love them. They are also the loneliest rocks in the world.

As legend has it, one day long ago, a little boy and his grandpa were digging for gold. Each time the boy chipped out a rock, he would show it to his grandpa and ask “Is this gold?” His grandpa would reply, “Nah, that’s just an ugly rock. Leave ‘er right there”. Later that day, when the boy showed his grandpa some of the rocks he had found, he asked, “Is this gold, or is it one of them “leaverite theres?” From that point on, the little boy and his grandpa called all the lonely rocks “leaverites” for short.

Over the years, the “leaverites” became so lonely they grew eyes and started looking for someone to take them home. This leaverite you find will be lonely no more. You have given the rock a home and a friend to adore. Oh, just one last thing that you must not ignore. The rock still needs a name he can listen for. Have a pet rock!!

via The Pebble Trails, 6/06; via Grant County Rolling Stones, 2/06; from Gems of the Rogue

Shows

June 1 - 3: Friday 12 noon - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 11 am - 4 pm
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, *Valley of Gems Show*
Fruitland Grange
112th St & 86th Ave. East
Puyallup, WA

June 2 & 3: Saturday 10 am- 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm
Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society, *Nature's Treasures Under Foot*
Hermiston Conference Center
4155 Hwy 395
Hermiston, Oregon

June 2 & 3: Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm
North Idaho Mineral Club, *Annual Rock & Gem Show*
Kootenai Co., Fairgrounds
Kathleen & Government Way
2-blocks E. of HWY 95
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

June 15 - 17: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4:30 pm
Oregon Coast Agate Club, *44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show*
Lincoln Co., Fairgrounds
633 NE. 3rd St.
Newport, Oregon

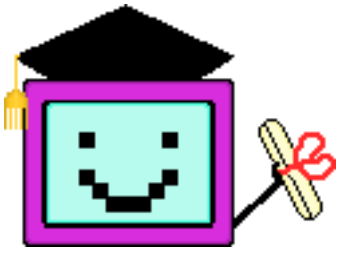
June 27 - July 1
All-Rockhounds Pow-Wow Club of America, *58th Annual Gem & Mineral Show*
Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Madras, Oregon

Internet Addresses

International Colored Gemstone Association
http://www.gemstone.org

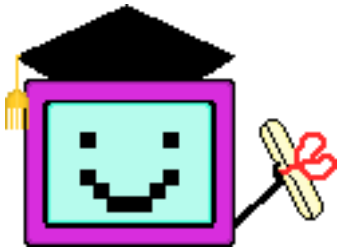
http://www.platetectonics.com

http://www.agateswithinclusions.com



Black Hills Institute
http://www.bhigr.com

Prehistoric sharks
http://www.elasmo.com



Clement Mineral Museum
http://www.clementmineralmuseum.com

Smithsonian Institute
http://www.si.edu
from The Quarry, 1/07

Kansas Underground Salt Museum
http://www.undergroundmuseum.org
via The Quarry, 10/06; via The Rockfinder, 9/06; from Rock Rustler News, 6-7/06