



# *the BEMS Tumbler*

June  
2009

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

*Next Meeting:*  
*June 11, 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*  
*Diana Noble on June 4,*  
*Leonard Bahr on June 7,*  
*Anna Burch on June 8,*  
*Nicholas Fulmer on June 9,*  
*David Martin on June 13,*  
*Melissa Wayland on June 14,*  
*Larry Fritz on June 24,*  
*Carolyn Mackey on June 24,*  
*June Farran on June 25,*  
*Doug Voss on June 26,*  
*Margaret Squires on June 27,*  
*Brenda Haworth on June 29,*  
*Dick Morgan on June 29,*  
*June Murff on June 30,*  
*and also remember*



*to wish a  
Happy Anniversary to*  
*Eugene & Wanita Martin on June 5 (55 years),*  
*Alan & Mel Pagel on June 9,*  
*Timothy S. & Cathye Pinkerton on June 16,*  
*Sharon & Jack Berosik on June 23 (47 years),*  
*Herman & Vera Gelbach on June 30 (60 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.

Except where otherwise noted, material from The Tumbler may be reprinted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the author(s) and source are acknowledged.

For commercial use, the author(s) must be contacted for permission; if no contact information is given, contact them via the editor.

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>**

---

Thanks to the second law of thermodynamics, Mohammed Bah Abba has developed a refrigerator that doesn't need electricity, and it costs very little. The elegant design consists of an earthenware pot nestled inside a larger pot.

Damp sand is packed between the two pots. When the Pot-within-Pot system is stored in a very dry, well-ventilated place, the water held in the clay walls of the two pots and sand evaporates, carrying heat with it. The inner pot therefore cools down. Abba received one of five biennial Rolex Awards for Enterprise for his clever design.

*Reference: Scientific American, 11/00*

from Breccia, 3/09



June



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Board Meeting 	2 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	3 South Sound Show Meeting 	4	5 Puyallup Show Faceting Class	6 Puyallup Show
7 Puyallup Show	8 Lapidary Shop	9 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	10 Jewelry Class	11 General Meeting 	12 Faceting Class	13
14	15 Lapidary Shop	16 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	17 Jewelry Class	18	19 Faceting Class	20 Start of BEMS week long trip to Oregon & Nevada
21	22 Lapidary Shop	23 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	24 Jewelry Class	25	26 Faceting Class	27
28	29 Board Meeting 	30 Lapidary Casting Jewelry				

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm More Field Trip info can be found on Pages 4 & 9  
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm 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

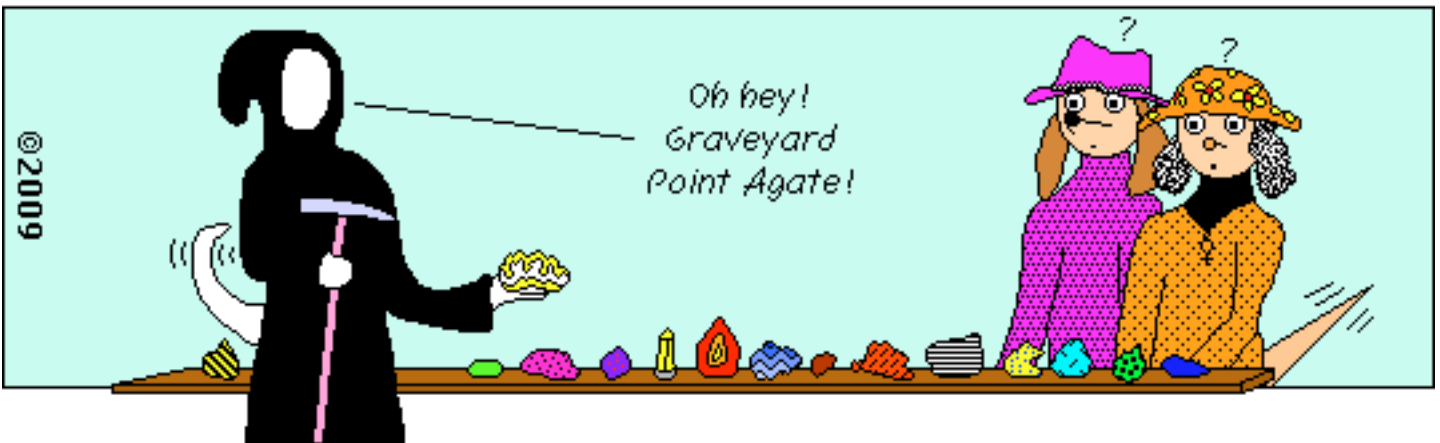
Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

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 May 4, 2009**



by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:03

Members Attending

- President Bob Pattie*      *Secretary Pete Williams*
- Editor Keith Morgan*      *Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar*
- Shop Dick Morgan*      *Federation Mike Blanton*
- Field Trips Bill Cook*      *Health & Welfare Carolyn Sealfon*
- Library Stephanie Jurado-Smith*      *Guest Jackie Pattie, Pat Morgan*

**Old Business:** The sign up process including indemnity form for guests to the club is nearly ready to be implemented.

Criteria for the Hall of Fame and current achievement awards are in work. Work in continuing on a list of club equipment to determine the cost of insurance.

**New Business:** Bob is planning to provide input by May 9 to the Okanagon/Wenatchee Forest Service land usage proposal. They are proposing that roads need to be marked as open before anyone can use them. Rockhounding is not currently a recognized recreational activity.

Boeing Recreation sent out a notice of an open house while Bob was out of town. No other club members received the notice.

Jewelry classes will continue while Carolyn is taking a month off.

There have been concerns about the dop pot being too hot for heat sensitive rocks such as opal. Alternatives are being looked into.

One piece of equipment donated to the club from Mr. Gibson is being prepared to be offered for sale to club members. It is a diamond genie in excellent condition.

One of the motors on a saw has burned out. The club is seeking a replacement motor. This will be mentioned at the next general meeting.

The library has been getting new donations each week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56.

**Rock Tripping with Mr. Bill Part II** by Brian Waters

We wanted to give everyone one more chance to go on an award winning (OK the article was award winning, maybe not the trip) field trip to Oregon and points beyond with Bill Cook, Brian Waters and assorted family members and friends.

On June 20th, the last day of Spring, we will be leaving early in the morning and heading to Hampton Butte outside of the teeming metropolis of Brothers, Oregon, where we will be camping for two nights, Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday we will be collecting the colorful petrified wood that can be found in this area. I have seen the wood from this area, and it is very nice, especially the bright green wood.

On Monday, June 22nd, we're going to break camp and drive down to the McDermott area which is off of Highway 96 at the Oregon/Nevada border. There is a lot of different places and materials to collect in this area.

The first, and most well known, is the petrified wood. Many people consider the wood that comes out of this area to be the finest that can be found in Oregon, or perhaps the Northwest. The other minerals that can be found in this area are chert, agate, wonderstone and jasper. The wonderstone, or banded rhyolite, is supposed to make very nice display pieces.

Due to the amount and quality of material that can be found here we will be staying from Monday night until Thursday, June 25th, giving us enough time to high grade the plentiful material that we will find. Perhaps on the last night we may stay at one of the casino's in the town of McDermott, Nevada, in order to get washed up and get a good nights sleep on a bed. I have been told that the owner of the last casino on the left-hand side of the 'strip' coming from Orgeon is a rockhound and has collecting maps for the area and also charges a reasonable rate for a room.

On Thursday we are going to head out to Prineville for the Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow, perhaps with a stop at Rome, Oregon, to collect snakeskin agate and apache tears, depending on the time.

At Prineville we will be camping at the fairgrounds starting on Thursday night until Sunday the 28th. They will be having three field trips from the Pow Wow that weekend. On Friday they will be going out to Richardson's Rock Ranch, on Saturday they will be going to Joe McDonald's Ranch and on Sunday they will be going to Little Bear Creek. We may or may not choose to go on these trips or go out on our own to other collecting sites in the area which there are many to choose from.

On Sunday the 28th we will be heading back home.

It should be a lot of fun and I'll wager that some really nice material will be found along the way. Anybody is free to join us for any or all parts of the trip.

To clean nonplastic metal costume jewelry, immerse it in rubbing alcohol for five minutes. Rinse in warm water and dry with a lintfree cloth.

**BEMS General Meeting Minutes May 14, 2009**

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30

Minutes approved as written.

**Tumbler Editor and Webmaster's Report:** Keith is looking for any suggestions for items to include on the web page.

Reminder to check the club lists for address, email addresses, and birthday/anniversaries to ensure they are up to date.

**Treasurer's Report:** Continuing to collect shop fees. Still working on fixing the 24" saw.

**Shop Reports:** The faceting classes picked up a new student. Hours for the classes will be extended after Cliff retires on June 19. Thanks go out to several members who have volunteered to clean the saws. Any rocks found in the saw may be kept by those doing the cleaning. Some excellent rocks have been found so far. Cheryl discussed looking for a motor for one of the saws.

**Library:** No report.

**Health & Welfare:** Esther was hospitalized, but is now at home doing well.

**Federation Report:** The mid-year meeting was held in Kennewick last month. Preparations for the yearly meeting are underway. There will be a raffle for the AFMS endowment fund at the meeting. Tickets may be purchased from Mike for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Members interested in obtaining a federation phone directory can get with Mike Blanton. Cost is \$5 each.

**Field Trip Report:** There is a field trip next weekend to Saddle Mountain and one to Greenwater on May 31.

**Mineral Council:** A representative from the Okanogan/Wenatchee Forest Service will present the motorized vehicle plan at the next meeting and will discuss access to roads. Bob provided input via email in the morning and received a phone call in the afternoon. The representative will be bringing a map to the MC meeting to discuss access.

**South Sound Show:** The little bags used to put polished gemstones for sale at the show were purchased this year. Last year a volunteer made the bags. The committee is requesting members to donate tumbled rocks. If you would like rocks to tumble and donate to the show, please see one of the committee members. There will be a work party on Saturday to fix the display cases for the upcoming show.

**Old Business:** Criteria are still being developed for the current achievement and Hall of Fame awards. A few examples of those that might be eligible for the club Hall of Fame are: Arthur Rischer, Bob Ross, Walt Swift, Norman Steel, and Herman Gelback. The criteria will be presented first to the board and then at a general meeting. The new release form and guest badges are ready to be used for guests to the club shops.

**New Business:** Boeing Recreation is asking club members to fill out a survey. Paper forms were available at the meeting. Current Boeing employees can fill out online.

**Program:** The program was the second half of the video on "Diamonds in the Rough."

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

**Displays:**

*Alice Swartz* - Diatomaceous earth, pictures & slide show of the April 2009 Pow-Wow

*Bob Brenner* - Fluorescent material from Saddle Mountain

*Mike Blanton* - Petrified wood from western Washington

*Cliff Frome* - Quartz & a meteorite

*Jerry K. F. Chilson* - Ochoco Forest thundereggs from near Prineville, Oregon

*Brian Waters* - Saddle Mountain petrified wood

*Ed Laville* - Smack'em rocks

*Roger Pullman* - Blanchart Hill material

**BEMS Jewelry Class** by Carolyn Sealfon

There has been an overwhelming and exciting response to the new jewelry class that began after Christmas last year. At this point, we have classes in casting and fabrication, with the main emphasis on casting. The classes are eight weeks long and we are now into the third class, with a waiting list through fall. If you are interested in other types of jewelry making techniques or wish to be added to the waiting list, please contact Carolyn Sealfon.

**Do-it-Yourself Sanding Sticks**

Make your own sanding sticks using paint stirring sticks from the paint store, or yardsticks cut to size. Glue the emery paper onto one side, label the grit on the other side, and you are ready as soon as the glue dries. This works with popsicle sticks, too.

from Breccia, 5/09



Elizabeth, Cheryl & Bill

**From Atop The Rock Pile**



By Bob Pattie, 2009 BEMS President

As we have more sunshine and daylight hours these days, it is time to get out those tools and get them cleaned up. That includes your rockhounding tools. They should be cleaned and put into some order, so when a field trip is coming up you can pick up the tool you will be needing and have them ready for the trip. If some need repairing, now is the time to put those new handles on your hammer, shovels, etc. It is also time to get your maps ready for your trips. The Washington State Mineral Council maps have been updated and they are now available. I am hoping to see some of your new collection at our next meeting, for show and tell.

**Young Richard's Almanac** by Dick Morgan

Father, a man who's forgotten all year, except one Sunday in June & when you need money.

Graduation time is here! Time to go from book learning to the School of Hard Knocks.



**Orienting & Polishing Oregon Sunstone** by Merle Reinikka

Dichroism occurs in all colored Oregon sunstones to some extent.

*Reds:* To obtain the best color (and size, when possible), orienting to the most intense red shade is preferred.

*Greens:* Invariably dichroic, green on one axis and red or pinkish-orange on another. I recommend cutting the stone in a step cut, with steep ends—65 to 70 degrees—just as you would when cutting strongly dichroic tourmaline. The whole stone will be a pleasing green when viewed from the table; from the ends, the red is strongly evident. If cutting a standard round brilliant, put the red color zone in the culet. Otherwise the finished product will be as exciting as dead seaweed.

*Cleavage:* Oregon sunstones have two perfect cleavages. One is evident in the schiller that shows as aventurescence paralleling cleavage planes in some stones. This effect is caused by a concentration of copper platelets. Less evident—but of some importance when it comes to polishing—is the cleavage of the triclinic structure of the crystal itself.

Cleavage planes do present problems in the final phase of polishing. One can avoid these situations by orienting 7 to 10 degrees off these known cleavage planes. But when all else fails, try reversing the direction of the polishing lap, or if available, use a wax lap at slow speed.

Cerium oxide, in all combinations of solution or lap make-up, is especially effective in polishing Oregon sunstones. Linde A slurry is my alternative choice, on tin or Conan laps. Spectra (Linde A) or Ultra (cerium oxide) laps may also be useful, though always with the chance of rounded facet edges.

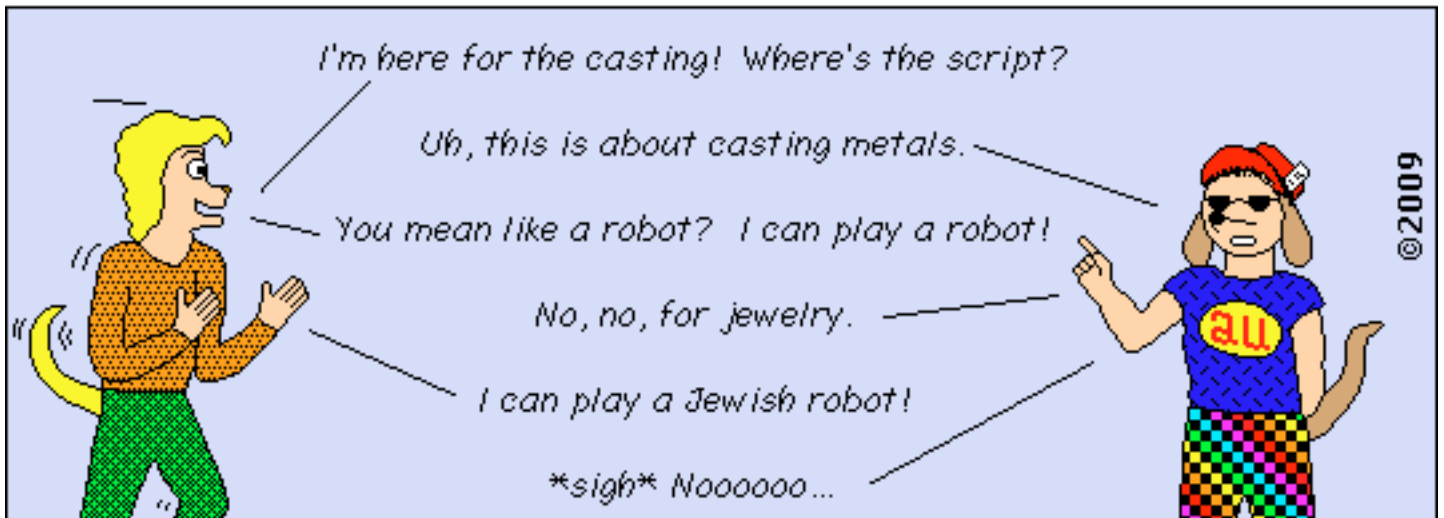
via Pegmatite, 2/07; via The Rock Collector, 2/05; excerpted from Facets, 12/04

Use stainless steel cotter pins to hold pieces in place while sweat soldering.

from Breccia, 5/09

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

by **KAM**



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

## What To Take Rock Hounding

Rockhounding experience (our own and tips and hints from colleagues, customers, and friends) has led us to compile the following list of things you won't want to be without.

1. **FIRST AID KIT.** We hope the reason for this one is obvious. A friend and fellow rock hound says "Rock hounding is like hockey, it's not fun until you see blood." We won't go that far, but we often get scrapes, bug bites, etc.

2. **SPARE TIRE & TOOLS TO CHANGE A FLAT.** Rocks reek havoc on soft rubber tires. We don't even want to go into the story of the day we were out in the desert with our flat, our spare and no lug wrench.

3. **GAS.** Make sure you have enough gas to make the trip into the desert and back out. It's a good idea to take an extra can full.

4. **WATER.** There is no potable (drinkable) water in the desert! Take lots.

5. **TOILET PAPER.** More uses than you think. The standard "paper work" use and it can also be used to wrap specimens. Make sure you take enough for both.

6. **GARBAGE BAGS.** Also dual purpose. The obvious choice for this item is hauling your trash out. They also make great wrap for specimens.

7. **HAND LENS.** <[http://www.erockshop.com/Hand\\_Lenses\\_s/19.htm](http://www.erockshop.com/Hand_Lenses_s/19.htm)>. For those of you not familiar with this item, it's a small, high quality magnifier, that you can wear around your neck. You will want to look at ALL the crystals you find, large and small, and you won't see the small ones without a hand lens.

8. **IDENTIFICATION GUIDE.** There are many guides on the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals and Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals.

9. **MAPS & GUIDE BOOKS.** Not only will you want to know how to get where you are going, you will want to know how to get home again. There are currently several guide books on Utah. They all have their pros and cons. We haven't found a guide book yet that didn't contain it's fair share of wrong directions. Most people end up with and use all the books to find great rocks, minerals & gold.

10. **NOTEBOOK & PENCIL.** Your specimens are much more valuable if you know where they came from. And you may want to go back and get more from a specific location. If you do not keep track of this information you won't have a way to do that. Not only write down the location, draw a picture of the area or your own map.

11. **ROCK HAMMER & SHEATH.** No, a nail hammer is not good enough. Rock hammers are a solid piece of steel. Therefore, the head cannot be broken off. Not only are they safer, but they will last you years of rock hounding. That is, they will last you for years if you carry them in a sheath. We consider Utah's deserts to be a large rock hammer exchange. We've left a few and collected a few. Now we carry them in a sheath so we don't set them down and lose them. We have found painting them construction orange helps to locate a misplaced tool.

12. **CHISELS.** In addition to your rock hammer, you'll want other tools. Chisels help remove rock or crystals with a little more precision. We recommend Estwing brand tools. They are also the best!

13. **SAFETY GOGGLES.** Eye protection is a serious concern when you are breaking rock. If you want to enjoy your specimens after you collect them, wear goggles or safety glasses.

14. **GARDEN TROWEL.** Very useful for small digging.

15. **ROUND POINT SHOVEL & HOE.** These tools are very handy when digging is required. Especially at the geode beds.

16. **SPECIMEN CONTAINERS.** We've used all the following: cardboard boxes, milk crates, wooden crates, 5 gallon buckets, canvas sacks, egg cartons, Tupperware dishes, cookie tins, film containers, etc.

17. **A BUDDY.** We do not recommend rock hounding alone. Use the buddy system.

18. **FOOD, SNACKS & MEDICATION.** Besides your meals, take along plenty of snacks. It's better to have too much than not enough. Never leave for a collecting trip without any medication you may need!

19. **HAT & SUNSCREEN.** You will get a sunburn without these.

20. **CAMPING GEAR.** When rock hounding, nine times out of ten you will not be near any facilities. Be a good scout and go prepared with some basic camping supplies.

21. **PATIENCE, COMMON SENSE and COURTESY.** We've noticed that the most successful rock hounds are those that patiently keep looking around until they find something really great. Always use common sense when in the field. Never trespass. Respect others and their property.

via Golden Spike News, 4/09; via Strata Gem, 4/09; via RockCollector, 3/09; via Blue Agate News, 2/09; from <http://www.rocks4u.com/rockhounding.htm>

Opalized Wood is extremely brittle. Clamp it and slab it with care, exerting as little pressure as possible. This is a heat sensitive material and should be kept wet and cool at all times while working. A drum sander or horizontal lap works better for removing saw marks than grinding wheels. Cerium oxide, tin oxide or Linde A on a moist felt buff will bring a mirror polish. It is not usually precious opal but do remember that opalized wood is opal.

via Breccia, 3/05; via The Rollin' Rock, 2/05; via Rockhound Rambling, 1/99; from Lapidary Journal, 2/98

**Ride Rockhounds, Ride** by Don Monroe, Chair, AFMS Safety Committee

At the recent American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual meeting hosted by the Southeast Federation, our safety committee activities received a lot of positive feedback and some very good suggestions for future safety articles were shared. Many of the comments dealt with travel issues and some of them were so good that I offer the following for your consideration.

A couple of people cited situations involving the tires on large trucks. If you are alongside or directly behind the vehicle when a tire ruptures, the force of the explosion can damage your vehicle or cause you to lose control. The large rubber tire cap, which you may encounter on the road, is often referred to as an "alligator" and can be a real road hazard if you are unable to avoid contact and run over it.

When do you get out of your vehicle? We have been told that staying in the vehicle is the better course of action during an electrical storm. We are also encouraged to leave our vehicle and take refuge in a ditch or sturdy structure when a tornado is sighted or deemed eminent. If we suffer auto damage or a flat tire, we are encouraged to leave the vehicle and get behind a guardrail or in some other safe area. Many victims are hurt or killed by other vehicles passing near. I well remember stopping in the middle of a city street to retrieve a ball for some kids and only realized the danger when a passing car brushed my coat. I know — stupid move.

Do you tow a trailer or other vehicle? It has taken me a while to believe that just a little bit of excess speed can result in a totally unstable rig. We often see trailers that sway to the point that we are really hesitant to pass them which means that we are seeing either excess speed or a poorly loaded trailer.

Are there actions we can take to improve our odds? I definitely think so and I will share a couple of my favorites.

First, prepare for your trip with good maps, a GPS if you know how to use it and one of the Exit Guide books. The books can be really helpful if you drive a diesel vehicle. There are some parts of the country where fuel can be hard to find.

Select a vehicle that really suits your intended purpose. I always feel safer in large, heavier vehicles. I know it may use a bit more fuel but can give you the edge when you have a confrontation with another vehicle or a large animal.

I often read articles in magazines and newspapers that recommend a refresher driver course for us older drivers. I have not done that yet but I plan to in the near future.

from AFMS Newsletter, 9/06

---

---

**Water, Water, Everywhere** by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

We are not "ancient mariners" but rockhounds are definitely mobile people and travel a lot. We go many places and need to give a lot of thought about water which can be our friend or our foe.

Rain, particularly heavy rain, has caused problems in many parts of the country and a little thought and planning can help us avoid hazardous situations. Have you ever seen a flash flood? If not, look around in your favorite field trip areas and see if there is evidence of heavy run-off in canyons, draws, gullies or whatever the common term is in your area. Seeing where trees and big rocks have been moved around by some really strong forces should make us wonder what would happen if we had been there. I found a fantastic fossil of significant size out in the big bend country of Texas a couple of years ago. Since the rock was big and I did not have the help I needed, I decided to carefully take bearings so that I could come back the next year. Well, flash flooding in the intervening year had changed everything. My fine fossil was gone and never seen again.

Heavy rain can do other things to your trip. I had my return route blocked in rural Missouri and have experienced land slides in Georgia and Alabama. I had the thrill of a wild spin as the result of hydroplaning on a major highway in the South. When we finally stopped we had burst two tires, bent two rims and made many silent promises to the Almighty.

Too much water can mean drowning. Wading in lakes and small streams is one way that we find sapphires and rubies in North Carolina. Have you ever stepped off in a deep hole wearing rubber boots? Even a good swimmer can get in real trouble quickly when the boots fill up, the clothing is soaked and that bag of goodies is weighing you down.

Well, that is enough about too much water but do we have problems with too little water? I have! Thirst and dehydration are extremely serious conditions that can result in bad things including death. There is little substitute for planning ahead and carrying adequate water. If you must use stream or ground water, you really need to know what you are doing. Outdoor outfitters can supply filtration equipment and chemical treatment outfits but local knowledge can also be invaluable. I have never lived in the West and really do not know much about water that is poisonous. My knowledge is gleaned from Louis L'Amour novels but I have been assured by western natives (some of my cousins) that the situation is very real and most dangerous. I only know that in no circumstance should one drink salt water from the ocean. Now don't tell me that we can't search for rocks and fossils in the ocean as I have found some neat stuff snorkeling off the Florida coast.

I have reached the end of my sheet of paper and the patience of my editor so we will talk at a later date about how water and electricity do not mix.

from AFMS Newsletter, 9/07

---

---

**Polishing Jade**

A little powdered graphite added to your chrome oxide on your felt buff does a wonderful job on jade.  
via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 5/09; via Carny Hound 2/09; via Joblin Gems; via The Rock Box; via The Polished Slab; from Carny Hound 1/72

## 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.

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

***June 20 - 28***     *BEMS - Hampton Butte, Oregon, McDermott, Nevada, Prineville Oregon - Petrified Wood, Chert, Agate, Wonderstone, Jasper*  
*Bill Cook*  
*Brian Waters*

***June 27 & 28***     *Ellensburg Rock club - First Creek - Thundereggs, agate & geodes - You will need digging & hard rock tools - Meet at 9:00 at West Fork Teanaway Camp*  
*Steve Townsend, srtrocks@aol.com*

***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 McCall 360-629-2515 rm711@tgi.net*

## Field Trip Safety!

Before you go on that first field trip, here are a few things to consider.

First Aid kit: Even a small kit can dress a bleeding wound.

Tools: Will the digging be hard or easy? Hard digging will require a chisel and hammer. Easy digging can be done with a shovel. (Mark the tools with a highly visible color. Many tools are left behind because they blended into the ground.)

Safety glasses: Rock shards or metal flakes can cause severe eye damage! Even blindness!!!

Extra set of clothes: If you get wet, a dry change of clothes may make the trip home more enjoyable.

Poncho or rain gear: Not only will this keep you dry if it rains, but you can kneel on it if you're doing some work on your knees.

Back Pack: Something to keep your tools in as well as pack your treasures out.

Food and Water: If your out for the day, don't forget to take food and water. Food that won't spoil is best unless you have a cooler with you. Drinking water, even warm, will re-hydrate your body.

Trip Plan: If you go out by yourself leave someone information as to where you will be going and when you expect to be back. If you have an accident, you know someone will come looking for you! A cell phone may not always work due to the terrain.

To borrow the Boy Scouts Motto, "Always Be Prepared" for anything. Bones break, muscles sprain, hearts can attack and vehicles can break down!

from Rock-A-Teer, 4/04

## Life's A Beach by Roger Luckenbach, PhD,

Beach sand does not come from the ocean but from the adjacent mountains and the streams that empty into it. Rock, eroded and carried by streams, is constantly being ground into finer and finer particles until it is deposited along the stream and at its mouth as sand.

In the Monterey Bay area, there are several types of sand on the beaches, differing from beach to beach. The coarse gravels are derived from granitic outcrops. The dark silt in one area is from local mudstone. The white sugary sand, prized for use in glass and ceramics, comes from old sand dunes. A few isolated beaches are a mixture of coarse granite grains and shell rubble. Coarse sands result in steep beach faces. Finer sands produce a flatter beach.

Winter storms sweep sand away, sometimes exposing bedrock. Spring and summer tides carry it back again. Much of the sand moved offshore accumulates as sand bars or is lost in offshore canyons.

In addition to quartz grains, over 18 other hard minerals have been found in the local sand; green hornblende and garnet predominate. Much of the rock found in the Monterey Bay region is sedimentary, formed from elevated ancient sea floor deposits. The old sands are being recycled - dissolved out and redeposited again and again.

via Golden Spike News, 10/08; via Glacial Drifter, 6/98; via Drywasher's Gazette, 12/97; via Rockatier, 3/96; from Coast Weekly, 8/3/95



# Shows

**June 5 - 7:** Friday 12 Noon - 6 pm; Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 11 am - 4 pm  
**Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Annual Show**  
 Fruitland Grange  
 112th St & 86th Ave. East  
 Puyallup, WA

**June 6 & 7:** Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm  
**North Idaho Mineral Club, Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show**  
 Kootenai Co., Fairgrounds  
 Kathleen & Government Way  
 2-blocks E. of HWY 95  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**June 19 - 21**  
**Oregon Coast Agate Club, 46th Annual Gem & Mineral Show**  
 Lincoln County Fairgrounds  
 633 NE 3rd St.  
 Newport, Oregon

**June 26 - 28:** Friday 5 pm - 9 pm; Saturday & Sunday 9 am - 5 pm  
**Columbia-Willamette Faceters' Guild, Faceters Conference**  
 Monarch Hotel  
 12566 SE 93rd Ave  
 Portland, Oregon



## Internet Addresses

Rockpick Legend Co.  
<http://rocks4u.com/>

Lapidary Supplies  
<http://lapidarysupplies.net/>

Jewelry Resource Supply  
<http://www.jewelryresourcesupply.com/>

Prospector Pete  
<http://www.prospectorpete.com/>

The Fossil Cartel Inc.  
<http://www.fossilcartel.com/>

The Rock Doc  
<http://www.therockdoc.net/>

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

Sahara Gems - Desert Stones  
<http://www.sahara-gems.com/index.html>

Many Facets Rock Shop  
<http://www.manyfacets.com/>

