



THE BEMS TUMBLER

March
2007

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

Next Meeting:
March 8, 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 was not known
at press time



*This month remember
to wish a*



Happy Birthday to
Shirley Houser on March 1,
Debra Jurasek on March 6,
Dennis Swenson on March 9,
Joan Keltgen-Lo on March 13,
Barbara Woodward on March 14,
Thomas Slee on March 17,
David VanDyke on March 28,
Leslie Anderson on March 30,



and also remember

to wish a

Happy Anniversary to
Frederick A. & Delores Geraldson on March 1 (2 years),
Steven & Carolyn Mackey on March 24 (47 years),
John & Tamara Carter on March 26 (2 years)



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

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

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

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

bemsrock@aol.com

Officers & Directors 2007

President Malcolm Wheeler, Jr.
Vice President John Carter
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Keith Alan Morgan
Director Dick Morgan
Director Bill Cook
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Tod Stevens
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
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Dan Clayton
Shop Operations
Shop Instructors:
 Casting Joe Poston
 Faceting Dan Clayton
 Faceting Cliff Frome
 Lapidary Dick Morgan
 Jewelry Joe Poston

Club eMail address is
bemsrock@aol.com

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 in person or by telephone at (253) 862-8201 or by computer at **draggin@foxinternet.net**

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to **bemsrock@aol.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.bemswa.org>**

Natural and synthetic stones need TLC. Here are some tips for extending the life and luster of your stones.

Clean stones with hot, soapy water.

Dry stones thoroughly with a soft towel.

Some stones can be cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner; some can be permanently damaged if cleaned in one (amber, coral, lapis, opal, pearl and turquoise, for example).

Rub gems with a smooth, soft cloth to remove fingerprints and keep them shiny.

Store stones away from intense heat and light.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/07; via Snoopy Gems 11/06; via The Golden Nugget, 02/06; via The Boulder Bouncer, 7/05; from Rio Grande



March



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Faceting Class	2 East Kingco Show
4 East Kingco Show	5 Lapidary Shop	6 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	7 	8 General Meeting	9 Faceting Class	10 Spokane Show (among others)
11 Spokane Show (among others)	12 Lapidary Shop	13 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	14	15	16 Faceting Class	17 North Seattle Show
18 North Seattle Show	19 Lapidary Shop	20 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	21	22	23 Faceting Class	24
25	26 Lapidary Shop	27 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	28	29	30 Faceting Class	31

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

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

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

Faceting Shop Hours:.....Wednesday.....Closed until further notice
 Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

BEMS Board Meeting:.....Tuesday (9 days prior to General Meeting).....9:30 am to 10:00 am
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



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New Board Meeting Dates

Changing the dates of the Board meetings to the Tuesday of the week before the General meeting (or 9 days before the General meeting) creates some interesting scheduling. If the month of a Board meeting starts on a Wednesday or Thursday the Board meeting for that month will actually be the end of the previous month. (Good thing the Board meetings are still every other month or we'd be having some months with 2 Board meetings.)

Anyway if you want to mark your calendars here is the new schedule up to January 2008. February 27, May 1, July 3, September 4, October 30 & January 1, 2008.

Some pictures of our speaker, Al Thumler, taken by John Carter.

Thumler's Tumblers build rotary & vibratory tumblers made to order.

Thumler's Tumbler
P.O. Box 585
640 First Street SW
Auburn WA 98001

<http://www.thumlerstumbler.com>



BEMS General Meeting Minutes February 8, 2007



by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Malcolm Wheeler. Since last month's meetings were canceled there were no minutes to approve. 51 members attended the meeting.

Tumbler Editor's Report: The newsletter is doing okay. Mentioned that the display slips put out next to the show & tell displays are used to know who displayed what for the minutes so displayers should fill them out & displayers get tickets for the raffle for displaying. If there is no display sheet and/or tickets next to their display they should let the editor know.

Membership Report: A copy of the latest membership list was set out so members could look at it & correct any mistakes.

Treasurer's Report: We're in the black. Dues are being accepted. Everyone must sign the indemnity forms every year.

Shop Reports: Malcolm reminded everyone to sign-in when using the shops so they can use that to show how much use they get to Boeing.

Keys to various things in the shop are now being kept in safes in the shop rooms.

Cliff Frome reports that Friday night faceting is doing well. There are no openings at the moment.

Dan Clayton is still out sick, but he is able to drive now.

Dick Morgan will be teaching people to use the Diamond Demon on Monday nights.

Library Report: A new book on Opal is in.

Health & Welfare: Ed Laville's son died.

Mineral Council: The last meeting was canceled because of the weather.

The Field Trip chairmen met to try & get each member club to each sponsor a field trip during the year.

The Greenwater Tree Farm sells a Sportsman's license for \$200 to allow access on their property.

Longview Fiber has been sold. Not sure what this will do to rockhounding in Kalamath.

Washington State Mineral Council dues are due.

South Sound Show Report: The show made a profit. The next meetings are in March, May, August, September, & 2 in October.

Old Business: It's time for some shop repairs. Make a list of what needs to be done.

Board meetings have been moved from just before the regular meeting to the Tuesday of the week before the regular meeting (9 days earlier) at 9:30 AM every other month. The next Board meeting will be February 27.

Because setting up for the South Sound Show will conflict with our general November meeting it will be moved to one week earlier, November 1. Malcolm will look into scheduling a room.

The Patties have been asked to sign up for the club picnic at Liberty Park. They are going to try & get the second Sunday in August.

Les Brooks reported some problems he had getting a saw blade repaired at Barranca. You now need to get an RMA (Return Material Authority) number from them first.

New Business: Malcolm Wheeler & Bob Pattie need some polished rocks because they are going to be teaching rocks & gems of the northwest to an Oregon school during either the last week in April or the first week in May.

Dick Morgan has been invited to give a talk on rocks & minerals at the National Science Fair at PLU.

When club members help out in things like this they should also notify the Bluebills, Boeing's retiree volunteer club.

Program: The program was Al Thumler of Thumler's Tumblers.

Displays:

Steve Mackey - Rocks & minerals from Germany, Switzerland, & Saudi Arabia

Carolyn Sealton - Hundreds of rocks from India, agates from the Bay of Bengal, marble, aventurine & blue quartz

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks

Jeff Brannan - Gem stones

Len Bahr - Faceted amethyst, corundum, cristinite & spinel

John Carter - German minerals from Edgar Zink, calcite, fluorite, garnet, dolomite, pinolite fossils

Michael Blanton - Saddle Mountain petrified wood

Malcolm & Karin Wheeler - Clam shell with crystals & miscellaneous rocks from Florida

Joan Keltgen-Lo - Tumbled rocks

Al Thumler - Tumblers from his business, Thumler's Tumblers

Cleaning Stone Beads

Immerse stone beads in warm, soapy water and scrub gently with a soft brush. Then rinse the beads and place them on a towel to dry. Most stone beads can be ultrasonically cleaned as well. Please note: Beads that are dyed or organic (amber, bone, coral, horn, ivory, opal, pearls or turquoise, for example) can be damaged if cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner. Also dyed stones should not be steam cleaned.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 2/07; via Snoopy Gems, 11/06; via The Golden Nugget, 2/06; from The Boulder Bouncer, 7/05

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

March is when Spring arrives... although in Washington the rain just gets warmer.

March is the time to beware of green beer... and other green liquids.

The Blarney Stone is not for collecting, but many stone collectors spread a lot of blarney.

Kissing the Blarney Stone gives you a silver tongue. Licking a rock gives you a gritty tongue.



What we now call the Blarney Stone was given to Cormac McCarthy by Robert the Bruce in 1314 for his support in the Battle of Bannockburn. Some believe the block of bluestone is half of the Stone of Scone which Scottish kings were crowned over. Although other stories claim it was the stone St. Columba of Iona used as a deathbed pillow; the Stone of Ezel, or the rock that Moses struck with his staff to produce water. The legend of kissing the stone giving the gift of eloquence is said to have been given them by a witch who had been saved from drowning.

Castle Blarney was built in 1446 and the stone was placed on the top storey, just below the battlements on the parapet. Kissing the stone is difficult & dangerous. Originally one was lowered over the edge, but that was stopped when a visitor fell to his death. Now they have some iron rails for people to hold onto & people lean back to kiss it.

Blarney, which derived from an Irish phrase meaning "the plain" came to mean "the ability to influence and coax with fair words and soft speech without giving offense" during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Then owner of the castle, Dermot McCarthy, had been required to surrender his fortress to prove his loyalty to the Queen. He claimed he was delighted to do so, but always had a plausible excuse when it came time to do it. When one of his excuses was repeated to the Queen she called it Blarney talk.

As the poet Francis Sylvester Mahony wrote:

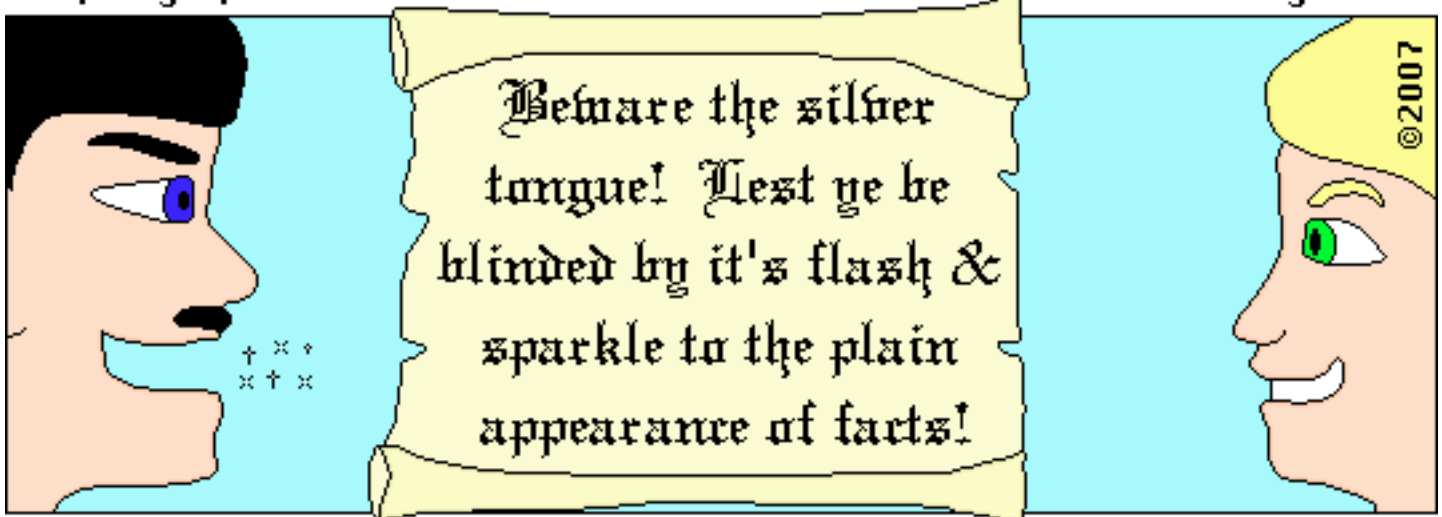
*There is a stone there,
That whoever kisses,
Oh, he never misses
To grow eloquent.
'Tis he may clamber
To a lady's chamber,
Or become a member
Of Parliament.*

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

Asparaguspeare

by KAM



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

Chinese Culture Jade Carving (Based on material offered by Mr. Du Feibao)

Jade is loosely understood in China as the collective name for most precious stones, and jade carving in this sense constitutes an important part of Chinese arts and crafts. The love of jade ware, according to Dr. Joseph Needham, the noted British naturalist, has been one of the cultural features of China.

Crude jade tools have been found among the archaeological finds dating back to the New Stone Age. There is, however, no evidence to indicate that neolithic people attached a great value to jade ware; they chose jade only because it was hard and good for making tools and fighting weapons. As time went on, people gradually came to appreciate the beauty of the stone, which after carving and polishing might be turned into things not only useful but also nice to look at.

In the historical epoch during which the slave society was replaced by the feudal society, jade ware became established as objects of pure decoration. Among the funerary objects unearthed from tombs of that long period are very many jade articles used as personal ornaments or ceremonial vessels. The jade exhibits one sees today in museums of the country normally comprise vases, incense-burners, tripods, cups, and wine vessels of various descriptions. Large-sized jade articles began to appear in the middle of the Chinese feudalism.

There is today in the Round City of the Beihai Park a large jade jar the size of a small bathtub. It was used as a wine container by the Yuan Emperor Kublai Khan when he feted his followers. The 3.5 ton jar may hold as much as 3,000 liters of wine. It has a circumference of 493 cm and measures 70 cm high and 55 cm deep in the middle. The elliptic jar is wellshaped and engraved all around with clouds, waves, dragons, and sea horses. It is the oldest jade object of a large size kept intact in the country.

Another large piece worth mentioning is a jade sculpture dating from the reign of Qianlong in the 18th century. Entitled "Jade Mountain Showing the Great Yu Taming the Flood", it was sculpted after a Song Dynasty painting of a similar title. The masterpiece, standing 2.4 meters high and about 1 meter wide, depicts in vivid detail how the Great Yu, a heroic representative of the ancient working people, fought the Great Flood. According to historical records, the uncut jade stone, weighing more than 5 tons, was discovered in Hotan area, Xinjiang, took three years to be transported over the distance of 4,000 kilometers to Beijing, and some more years to be carved and polished into the national treasure that it is. "There is a price for gold but no price for jade", says a Chinese proverb Jade ware is often described as "worth a string of towns". An ancient story tells how King Zhao of Qin once offered 15 towns in exchange for the famous Ho's round Jade. How is it that jade is so valuable?

First, its value lies in its scarcity. Precious stones are formed over long geological epochs and are hard to get, especially green jade, white jade, and agate. Ancient people on a treasure hunt had to trek on the back of yaks in mountainous regions to get at the unhewn rocks containing the gems, exposed or half exposed, by the stamping of the animals' hoofs. Sometimes, precious stones were washed down by mountain torrents and were got hold of midway by men with the eye and luck. In any event, exposed stones grew scarce, and people began to bore through the mountains to mine for precious stones, making them even more difficult to get.

Secondly, the value of jade lies in its hardness. Precious stones are divided by their hardness into two major groups: Jadeites and Nephrites.

Jadeites are the ones with a solid texture and a hardness of degree 6 or above (on the basis of 10 for diamond). The more valuable varieties, such as green jade, may be as hard as degree 8 or 9. Jadeites are invulnerable to steel cutting tools made of carborundum or diamond power. Objects made of this hard jade are smooth, lustrous, glittering, and translucent, and their grains are no longer visible to the naked eye.

Nephrites, on the other hand, being below degree 6 in hardness, can generally be incised and carved by burns. Their commercial values are much lower than jadeites. Thirdly, the value of precious stones lies in their natural color and hue. Some are as white as snow, others are brightly red, and still others alluringly green. Diamond, emerald, sapphire, and other gemstones can be processed into personal ornaments like rings and earrings whose color will remain brilliant all the time. Some stones carry an array of colors which a master artisan can use to good effect. Even flaws in the stone can be turned into "beauty spots", for instance, an insect on a flower or a small squirrel on a tree, adding life and attraction to the entire piece of work.

Today there are jade workshops or factories in all major cities. Work which used to be done purely by hand has been partially mechanized. Although some operations have become faster with the use of simple machines, yet jade carving remains basically a handicraft art. And as raw materials are getting more and more scarce, the prices of jade ware will always be on the upward trend.

via Breccia, 4/06; via The Rockhouser, 10/05; from <http://asiarecipe.com/chijade.html>

Pyrite by Ron Graichen

Pyrite is fool's gold. It is very common. Most metallic ore deposits are pyritic and some non-metal ores also contain the mineral. Pyrite is merely a combination of iron and sulfur and in a few cases it is a poor ore for iron production.

Many mineral collections have beautiful crystalline specimens. Pyrite is brass-yellow and occasionally displays a bluish or purplish iridescence on crystal faces. Crush a small piece and the result is black. It is heavy and unusually hard for a metallic sulfide of which there are many. Crystals are commonly striated cubes or pyramids (octahedrons) and some have pentagon faces.

Chalcopyrite is similar, containing 35% copper; it does not often display crystals and never cubes. It is more golden, softer and crushes to a greenish-black color. Chalcopyrite almost always is associated with pyrite where the contrast in character can readily be seen. Both are sulfides meaning they are metals combined with sulfur.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/07; from Carney Hound, 11/06

Dopping Gemstones by Ed Wengerd,

When cutting cabochons it's always best to put a handle on the stone that you're working so you can have better control over your work. Handles are really called "dop sticks" or "dops" for short and can be made from almost any material. The most popular is a piece of dowel rod, cut about 3 or 4 inches long. You can also use a round clothes pin, nails, or purchase aluminum dops. You'll need to have these in an assortment of diameters to fit the stones you are cutting. You wouldn't want to have a tiny dop for a huge stone or a huge dop for a tiny stone. The best adhesive for attaching the dop to the stone is a special green wax called appropriately enough "dop wax". This wax melts at a fairly low temperature and has good adhering qualities that make it ideal for stone work. Dop wax also comes in red and black versions, but these melt at different temperatures and are not as good for holding cabochons to dops.

To attach a dop properly, you first need to melt the wax. You need to do this slowly and at a controlled temperature. I use a small metal pan set on top of a #10 can. I've cut out the bottom of the can and made an opening in one side so that an alcohol lamp can be easily slid inside. There is enough clearance between the lamp and the top and sides of the can to allow this to work well. It takes about 10 minutes for the wax to get to a molten state - but not too thin or too hot. It just has to flow slowly for it to be hot enough. If the wax starts to smoke, you've heated it too much.

An easier, and perhaps better way to heat the wax, is to use one of the specially made electric wax heaters. These have a small depression where you melt a bit of the wax, plus a flat surface that you can use for heating the stone and/or dop. The nice thing about these devices is that the heat on the wax remains at a constant temperature and you don't have to worry about the wax getting too hot. While the wax is heating, clean the stone you're going to dop. I use alcohol or sometimes acetone, but be sure that the room is well vented if you use the acetone. The purpose of cleaning the stones is to remove any traces of cutting oil or oil from your hands that would prevent the dop wax from sticking to the stone. It's also a good idea to clean off the dop stick, especially the metal kind.

Warm the stone a bit. I place mine on the tin can next to the melting dop wax. On an electric heater you can put it on the platform next to the dop pot. Heat the metal dop stick too. Remember to put your stone face down so that when you're ready to put everything together you attach your "handle" to the back side!

Melting the wax may take anywhere from 10 - 30 minutes depending on the heat source and the quantity of wax in your pot. Once it's melted to the fluid state, twirl the end of the dop stick around in the wax. You want to pick up a good quantity of wax on the stick. Then, put the stick down on the back of your stone. Center it as best you can. Move the stone off the heating surface and let it set a couple of seconds. Then dip your fingers in water to prevent burning and squish the dop wax around the stone and stick to make a conical shape. You want about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the back of the stone covered by wax and you want the wax to stick to both the stone and the stick with the widest possible base you can make.

Let everything cool completely before you start to grind! To remove the dop stick simply put the stone in the freezer for about 10 minutes. The wax becomes brittle and separates from the stone with ease. Do not do this with opal or other stones that contain a high concentration of liquid or they will fracture.

If you do not have a freezer handy, just reheat the stone slightly over an alcohol lamp or put it on the metal surface next to your dop pot. The wax will begin to soften and will quickly separate from the stick. A warm knife can then be used to scrape the remaining wax from the back of the stone.

via Breccia, 8/06; from Gem Cutters News, 5/06

Serpentine rock is apple-green to black and is often mottled with light and dark colored areas. Its surfaces often have a shiny or wax-like appearance and a slightly soapy feel. Serpentine is usually finegrained and compact, but may be granular, platy, or fibrous in appearance. The term "serpentine" is commonly used by the general public to refer to the rock type that geologists call "serpentinite". Serpentine occurs in central and northern California — in the Coast Ranges, the Klamath Mountains, and in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Serpentine rock is primarily composed of one or more of the three magnesium silicate minerals, "lizardite," "chrysolite," and "antigorite." Chrysolite often occurs as fibrous veinlets in serpentine. Chrysolite in fibrous form is the most common type of asbestos. Asbestos is a term applied to a group of silicate minerals that readily separates into thin, strong, and flexible fibers that are heat resistant. Lizardite and antigorite do not form asbestos fibers and instead are plate-like in form. Because serpentine often contains some asbestos, and exposure to asbestos fibers have potential human health consequences, the Air Resources Board adopted regulations in 1990 restricting the use of this rock type as an unpaved road surfacing material. Further information on restrictions for serpentine use in California can be obtained by contacting Air Resources Board at (916) 322-8285, or the local Air Pollution Control District Offices.

Serpentine is considered by geoscientists to be the metamorphosed remains of magnesium-rich igneous rocks, most commonly the rock peridotite, from the earth's mantle. The mantle is a thick layer of rock just below the earth's crust. One theory for serpentine formation and occurrence currently in favor with many geoscientists is that peridotite underlying rocks have been metamorphosed to serpentine in subduction zones that existed at various times in California's past. A subduction zone is an area where ocean crust rocks run into and slide underneath the edge of a continent. Because serpentine has a much lower density than peridotite, it rose toward the surface along major regional thrust faults associated with the subduction zones.

via Breccia, 9/06; via Rockhound Rambling, 8/06; via MOROKS, 8/06; via Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society; from the California Geologic Survey

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 British Columbia Lapidary Society webpage (<http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/trips.html>).

March 4

BC Wagonmasters - Alexandra Bar - This is another Fraser river bar, this time with larger stones from farther upstream. This one involves a hike down to the river from the parking area, so this one is not recommended for people unable to withstand the strenuous hike back up with your backpack full of goodies. The meeting place is the Bridal Falls coffee shop at 9:00 AM

Bill Needoba (604) 451-7701

The Irish Washerwoman

by Joan Greenlees Abramson

The sea's an Irish washerwoman
Whipping up the foam.
Her nimble fingers spread the lace
Then gather it back home.

The restless waves obey her call
And dash against the shore.
She separates the light from dark,
A never-ending chore.

She polishes the pebbles—
The jade and serpentine—
And mocks us with her melody,
"The Wearin' of the Green".

Rockhounds scramble down the cliff,
Armed with picks and hope.
The washerwoman far below
Is rinsing out the soap.

She strews the tumbled pebbles
Across the shining sand,
And with her arms all sudsy,
She takes her tasks in hand.

She rarely ceases cleaning-
The beach is her domain.
She's jealous of intruders
And gives a grudging gain.

Her agile fingers work away
She agitates the beach
And buries all the jade she finds,
To keep it out of reach.

She tires from the laundering.
The low tide is her reward.
But rockhounds find the precious jade—
The washerwoman's hoard!

from Pegmatite, 11/06

Catalina Steatite (Soapstone) Early Man's Bargaining Tool

by Bob Jones, Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club
Hundreds of years before Portola and Father Junipero Serra explored the California coast, the Pemungan (Tongva) people of Santa Catalina Island were trading soapstone vessels with the Chumash people of what is now Orange County, and the Cabrielino people in the Santa Barbara area.

The Museum at the Casino in Avalon Bay, Catalina, has a unique display of carved bowls and vessels made of soapstone. Soapstone is a metamorphic form of talc. Steatite is a unique mix of minerals with the talc (hardness 1-3) that makes the rock easy to carve and shape into bowls. The steatite held heat well and could be placed on a fire for heating food.

The Cabrielinos and the Chumash paddled their 25 to 30 foot canoes to the various coastal islands in search of shells for making jewelry and money, fish, and the soft rocks that they could carve into bowls and vessels. The canoes were made of overlapping planks covered with deer skins and chinked with the tar that the natives found along the coast from Huntington Beach to Santa Barbara. The canoes required 15 paddlers to move the boat through the channels to the islands. Archeologists have found soapstone bowls throughout southern California. Dick Knox supplied me with some soapstone said to have come from Catalina. It carves into animals and other figures quite easily.

A search of Internet websites provides two locations for steatite on Catalina. One is high above Empire Cove Landing. Empire Landing is about two miles southeast of Two Harbors on the north end of the island. Another reference indicated the "South East Rock Auxialiary". This location I could not find on a map of the island. (I need a better map.) I have written to the Chamber of Commerce at Avalon to see if there is any information as to access to the old mine tailings at the steatite quarries. These sites may be off limits or inaccessible today.

via The Pegmatite, 2/05; from The Tumble Rumble, 9/04



Shows



March 3 & 4: Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
East King Co., Rock Club, Annual Rock & Gem Show
 Pickering Barn
 1730 10th Ave.NW. (across from Costco)
 Issaquah, WA

March 9 - 11: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Rock Rollers of Spokane, 48th Annual Show Rock & Minerals of the Northwest
 Spokane Fair & Expo Center
 Broadway & Havana
 Spokane, WA

March 9 - 11: Friday 9 am - 5 pm; Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Tualatin Valley Gem Club, Rock Heaven 2007
 Washington Co., Fairplex
 873NW 34th Ave.
 Hillsboro, Oregon

March 10 & 11: Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 4pm
Magic Valley Gem Club, Magic Valley Gem Show
 Boys & Girls Club
 999 Frontier Rd. (Just east of C.S.I.)
 Twin Falls, ID

March 10 & 11: Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm
Rock & Arrowhead Club, Oregon Territory Treasures
 Klamath County Fairgrounds
 3531 S. 6th St.
 Klamath Fall, Oregon

March 17 & 18: Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 5pm
North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club, 53rd Annual rock and Gem Show
 Lake City Community Center
 12531 28th Ave. NE
 Seattle WA



Internet Addresses

Pala Gems
<http://www.palagems.com/>
 from Kyana Gemscoop, 11/06

Lucky Gemstones
<http://www.luckygemstones.com>
 from West Seattle Petroglyphs, 2/07

Nevada Gem
<http://www.nevadagem.com>

Red Flower Silver
<http://www.redflowersilver.com>

Beyond the Rainbow (New Age & metaphysical site)
<http://www.rainbowcrystal.com/>

Sobriety Stones Spiritual Gifts
<http://www.sobrietystones.com/>

Dave's Down To Earth Rock Shop
<http://www.davesdowntoearthrockshop.com/>

Thumler's Tumblers
<http://www.thumlerstumbler.com>

