



the BEMS *Tumbler*

May
2009

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

Next Meeting:
May 14, 2009
7:30 p.m.

**Boeing Recreation
Activity Center**

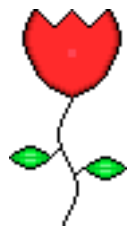
Room B at
22649 83rd Avenue S.

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

The Program will be
Part 2 of the video
Diamonds In The Rough



*This month remember to wish a
Happy Birthday to*
Jim Mayhall on May 2,
Timothy S. Pinkerton on May 2,
Robert Brenner on May 5,
Cheryl Edgar on May 5,
Eric Chilson on May 6,
Phil DeLeo on May 8,
Jerry KF Chilson on May 15,
Patricia Morgan on May 16,
Jennifer Russell on May 16,
William Farrow on May 18,
Wendy Woldenberg on May 21,
Leinani Miyamoto on May 22,
Mike Tanaka on May 23,
Jim Marchand on May 24,
Alan Pagel on May 25,
Edelyn Thaves on May 26,
Jillian N. English on May 27,
Cherie Beaupain on May 30,
*and also remember to wish a
Happy Anniversary to*
Virginia & Brad Hopkins on May 4,
Dennis & Carolee Swenson on May 14 (55 years),
Robert & Maureen Brenner on May 17,
Brian & Cherie Beaupain on May 26,
Doug & Donita Voss on May 26



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

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

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

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors 2009

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Vice President Scott Burch
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 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>

Slicing Rainbow Iris Agate

Rainbow Iris shows best in slices $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick. If your slices are $\frac{3}{16}$ inch or over, the rainbow color is very hard to detect. However, with a little experience, you can detect most of it in the thicker slabs if you dip the slice in oil and hold it to the light. Then raise and lower it in front of the light and if the bands seems to change color slightly, then you can be fairly sure that it is iris. If it is, then cut the next slices $\frac{1}{16}$ inch or thinner.

via Pegmatite, 9/06; via S.D. Lapidary Society Shop Notes, 9/03; original source unknown



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					Faceting Class	
3	4 Board Meeting 	5 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	6 Jewelry Class	7	8 Faceting Class	9
10	11 Lapidary Shop	12 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	13 Jewelry Class	14 General Meeting 	15 Faceting Class	16 <u>Saddle Mtn Trip</u>
17 <u>Saddle Mtn Trip</u>	18 Lapidary Shop	19 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	20 Jewelry Class	21	22 Faceting Class	23
24	25 Lapidary Shop	26 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	27 Jewelry Class	28	29 Faceting Class	30 <i>West Seattle Show</i>
31 <u>Greenwater Trip</u>						

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

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

Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting by Appointment)
 Jewelry Class Hours:.....Wednesday.....10:00 am to 5:00 pm

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

South Sound Show Committee Meeting...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 General Meeting Minutes April 9, 2009

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:32

Minutes approved as written.

Tumbler Editor & Webmaster's Report: The web site will be updated with recently obtained pictures. The birthday and anniversary list and address list have been update with requested changes. Please review to verify or make additional changes. Any articles, field trip reports, poems, etc. submitted by members are welcomed and will be printed in the Tumbler.

Shop Reports: The faceting shop is doing well with a new person starting soon. Monday night's lapidary classes are also doing well. Instructions are being provided on how to use the Diamond Demon. The current jewelry class is finishing up this month with a new class beginning in May. Bill Cook hooked up a night light to the dop pot and iron to help prevent people from leaving the shop while the equipment is still on.

Library: The library has many new magazines available for members to check out.

Health & Welfare: Rich's nephew and Stephanie's daughter received cards from the club.

Federation Report: The mid-year meeting will be in Kennewick next weekend. Federation directories are on sale. See Mike if you are interested. A copy is also available in the club library for checkout.

Field Trip Report: The Blanchard Hill field trip is on 4/18. The Pow Wow club is having their field trip to Saddle Mountain on 4/18-19.

Mineral Council: The council discussed the recently passed Omnibus Lands bill. The bill is 1200 pages in length. Washington State did not get hurt too badly. The council identified several major issues with the passage of the bill. The bill defines casual collecting of rocks and fossils as being permitted on land that is not restricted. The concern is how the lands will be restricted. The Okanogan/Wenatchee forest is doing an environmental impact assessment. They are stating all roads will be closed unless marked as open. Clubs need to identify which roads should remain open and provide first inputs by 5/9. The bill identifies 22 thousand acres of land around I90 as wilderness. Permits are required if more than 25 people are collecting at a site. See the Mineral Council web site for more details.

South Sound Show: All contracts have been mailed out. Reservation deposits have been received from 7 vendors. Many vendors have expressed interest in display cases. Club members need to reserve cases by August to have priority over the vendors. A sign up sheet will be available at the next club meeting.

New Business: Flyers were available for the BC club show and several local shows.

Program: The program was a video on "Diamonds in the Rough."

Meeting adjourned at 8:49.

Displays:

Cliff Frome - Faceted peridot, sphene, tourmaline & aquamarine

Mike Blanton - Petrified wood

Leonard Bahr - Quartz & 3 different colored cubic zirconias

Carolyn Sealfon - Copper cast succulent plants & a copper bowl for jewelry making

Bob Swartz - Shellfish fossils from Clallum Bay & copper ore with slab

Edmond Laville - Smack'Em Rocks

Bob Pattie - Pictures & stuff from the Cascade School talk

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

In this life we should always take some time for body needs, mental needs, & human needs.

Don't let doing what you want to do take away from the time you need to do the things that are required.

I met someone who thought he could protect himself from the swine flu with duck tape, but I pointed out that that would only protect him from avian flu.

Polishing Shells by Kathy, KWittick@aol.com

We winter in Arizona and I have cut and polished quite a number of different shells. We shape with the coarser wheels and then like soft stones we progress through the finer grits until we finish the wet polish at 600, then we go to 3000 diamond dresses leather belt, to eliminate cross contamination the shells are washed between wet grinding and dry. After the 3000 the shells are again washed and finished on a 12000 grit dressed leather belt.

This process creates a high polished finish and stabilizes the shell while enhancing the colors.

from West Seattle Petroglyphs, 3/09

When Is Enough, ENOUGH? by Bob Pattie

I am asking this question as I review the latest variety of so called "Public Lands" bills to protect our public lands. The more I read about our public lands the more I question the definition of public, is it something for the general public or is it for those that agree with the current political views of special interest groups. With this article, my intent is for each of you to decide for yourself what a recommended approach is to the Public Lands usage and to take whatever action you feel appropriate. I will try to give you enough information to at least get you starting in reviewing the available information.

In this article I will list the various activities that I have heard about in the last couple of weeks.

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 - This is a government bill that has passed congress and signed by President Obama in late March. This is a combination of many bills that our senators and representatives have submitted the last couple of years and they didn't pass individually. It adds to the Wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers and other protected areas. It does have some good words on casual rock collecting in some of the rest of the BLM, and FS lands. I have written a separate article on this Act.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest - The Okanogan and Wenatchee are working together on a Travel Management Plan for their forests. They are in the first stages of developing and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the designation of the many roads and trails in these two national forests. They are looking for any comment from the public that should be considered in the writing of the EIS. You can e-mail your comments to: okawen-travel-management@fs.fed.us. They are looking for specific roads and trails that we use to get to our collecting sites. They have maps on their web page that will help determine the areas for inputs. The person in charge of this project is Bob Stoehr and is located in the Wenatchee office.

You should be aware that Senator Patty Murray and Congressman David Reichert have introduced a bill that would add more than 22,000 acres of Wilderness adjacent to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area. It would also designate parts of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt rivers as "Wild and Scenic". The map I have seen regarding this area, places some of the wilderness area along I-90, which I question if this really falls under the "untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain" definition of an Wilderness Area. These two individuals, last year got the Big Sky Wilderness area near Index and supported the Omnibus Bill and now looking to place more land under the protection of the Federal Government.

Earlier this year the Department of Natural Resource (Washington State Land Management) passed their new Recreation and Public Use rules. This new set of rules effects the roads and trails we travel on to get to our collecting sites. It also states that a permit is needed if more than 25 individuals are using a particular site.

Words Of Caution by John Wright, RPG, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

Back in October 2008, I planned to write about "Conflict Stones" sometimes better known as "Blood Stones", but decided that the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act was a much more immediate problem. My "crystal ball" indicates that by the time this article appears the Omnibus Package which also includes the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act will more than likely be history and I can move on to other matters of concern that you will probably appreciate more since its just an advisory and you will not be asked (heaven forbid) to exert yourself to do anything.

Numerous items are banned from being imported into the United States, i.e. cocaine, opium, etc., but I want to concentrate on things that pertain to us rockhounds. Most of us are well aware that importing ivory or ivory products into the United States has been banned for a couple of decades. Until recently there were very few restrictions on importing gemstones, precious metals, or fossils, if these properties were declared, documented properly, and the appropriate tariffs paid. Well, this is quickly changing as one vocal segment of our population has suddenly decided that the methods used to mine and manufacture jewelry items are cruel and inhumane (yet they are more than quick, ready, and proud to wear exquisite jewelry when in the limelight). They also want to apply the same rules being forced on us here in the United States to fossils obtained in others areas of the world.

In 2002 restrictions were placed on importing gemstones and minerals from Myanmar (which used to be Burma) because of the inhuman way in which the people were being treated by the country's military regime. The 2002 restrictions were changed to a complete total ban effective October 1, 2008. This ban means that gemstones and jewelry items originating in Myanmar (rubies, sapphires, jadeite, etc.) can no longer be imported into the USA even if the actual jewelry was made in another country. Items falling within this restriction must have documentation proving they were obtained prior to the implementation of the law or that the origin of the item was other than Myanmar. Since approximately 90% of the world's gem quality natural rubies come from Myanmar this law is effectively going to shut down their availability in the United States. Yangon gem sellers dismissed the sanction against their government as a symbolic gesture unlikely to have much impact on their lucrative trade. "Our buyers are almost all from China, Russia, the Gulf, Thailand, India and the European Union, and we can barely keep up with their demand," said Theta Mar of Mandalay Jewelry, a store in the museum gem shop located in the capitol of Myanmar.

The thing you need to be aware of is that efforts are well under way in the US Congress to have these same restrictions placed on a variety of gemstones and minerals from other countries in the world. I wonder how many of us still have the receipts for the jewelry items we purchased many years ago that might fall into the restricted categories. At the present this will not be much of a problem unless you travel out of country and happen to take along some of your jewelry or maybe find some really outstanding buys you can't live without while abroad. Coming back into this country could present a real challenge.

I've often heard that an elephant is a mouse built to government specifications and now with the current trend towards

political correctness, I fully expect to see these efforts at restricting gemological imports grow into a real monster. Will these embargoes which penalize our citizens in order to punish other governments with whom we disagree work? Not really - just like the restrictions on rubies from Myanmar, with the Americans and a few European consumers out of the picture, buyers from other countries will be more than happy to take advantage of a great opportunity. Who will loose? Unfortunately, we Americans citizens will.

from AFMS Newsletter, 4/09

Fossil Hunting At Clallam Bay — Slip Point by Bob and Alice Swartz

In 1970 Alice and I were informed by one of Alice's coworkers of a great place to find fossils on the Olympic Peninsula. It turns out Gretchen had been a geology major at the University of Puget Sound and had spent many hours scouring the rocks and sediments of the Peninsula where she had been born and raised. She happily took us on our first geology field trip in Washington to Clallam Bay. I can recall finding numerous clam, pecten and snail fossils along with some others which Gretchen had names for but I quickly forgot. It was a really great day of "fossiling" and beach combing and we have often recalled what a great experience it was with a person who would turn out to be a long time special friend. Until now however we never have made the time to return to Clallam Bay, so we decided to make a 3 day trip to enjoy the Straits and check out the fossil beds that we had visited back in 1970. Unfortunately Gretchen is no longer with us but her memories were still there as we walked the beaches.

Its amazing how little things have changed at Clallam Bay since 1970, but also amazing how much greater the distance out to slip point and the cliffs to the east seems to have become in those few years (geologically speaking). The tide was low at about 11:15 AM so we had a quick breakfast and headed for the point out past the old Coast Guard Station at about 9 AM. This gave us plenty of time to poke around on the way back from "Fossiling". The other thing I had forgotten was the amount of sea weed and slime there was on the rocks that we had to walk over and at the tip of the point Alice decided that looking at the scenery and the surf bursting over the rocks was more interesting than going on around the point to the better fossil cliffs. So she proceeded to photograph and look while I went on around the point and prospected. It wasn't long before I recognized the cliffs that we had picked fossils from with Gretchen and began gathering a few specimens to commemorate this second trip. The cliff face continues to erode and large chunks of it are scattered along the beach. The newer material can easily be busted with a rock hammer and/or a small chisel and when split quite often yields great specimens of the animals deposited there 125 million years ago. Without breaking any rock I found some nice Pecten (scallop) shell fragments and casts of shells. Plenty of clam fossils, even some with aragonite and calcite crystals on and in them. It was still a long while before the tide would be back in so I had plenty of time to prospect but quickly realized that the "kid" in his mid twenties who climbed up on the side of the cliffs to pick out some "better" specimens was now on much older legs and knees and was not about to climb anywhere on that cliff to get a "better" specimen. I made my way back around the point to where Alice was still enjoying the surf and we headed back to the less slippery cobble beach of Clallam Bay. As it turns out where Alice had stopped had quite a collection of fossils embedded in the rocks and even the cliff face there as well. The tide pools on the sedimentary rock shelf that stretches into the Straits of Juan De Fuca are well worth the trip without the fossil hunting. They contain some of the richest examples of Pacific Ocean/Puget Sound sea life that you can find. Numerous types of red, green and brown algae, every imaginable type of shellfish that can cling to the rocks in rough weather, and plenty of seabirds and mammals out in the kelp beds off the rocks. I also found a small piece of petrified teredo worm wood in the cobble near the rocks and watched a pair of Harlequin ducks diving in the kelp. The beach in the bay is a great place to look for agates, we found a few possibilities along with a lot of "sugar agate".

As it turns out there are numerous places to find varying kinds of fossils all along the beaches from Port Angeles to Neah Bay and during the week, especially this time of year, you can usually have it all to yourself. Why we have waited so long to go back to spend time there is a mystery to me, except that Washington has so many beautiful places to rock hound, prospect and just enjoy the scenery that I keep wanting to see something I have not seen before and around here that could take forever just for one trip to each place

On the way home on Wednesday we yielded to temptation and stopped at the Woolly Mammoth Rock shop to the west of Sequim. To our surprise the shop is going out of business and is selling all its stock at 50% off. The owner has moved all the shop equipment already and plans to continue using it elsewhere but everything else is for sale. Although I always like to buy rocks at half price it is sad to see yet another rock shop going out of business, they are getting to be rarer around here than the specimens they provide. Alice picked up a small piece of Holly Blue Agate and got a couple of pieces of Mexican fire opal (with not much fire) thrown in for free. After searching the rock piles out to the side I finally decided upon a nice 30 pound piece of Cuprite, Tenorite, Chrysocolla, Malachite (you pick it, its all in that one piece). I have already made a couple of slices on the club's 30 inch saw and have some really exciting prospects. Some of the other folks in the shop thought I was making red barn paint while I was cutting it!

Amazing what one can pick up in a three day trip. Well, on the 17th of April we are planning to head for Saddle Mountain to check out the petrified wood and see if it has changed since I was there last, 40 years ago!! Hope to see you there.

Saddle Mountain Pow Wow 2009 by Brian Waters

By the 17th of April I was ready for a rockhounding trip. Besides a couple of day trips I haven't really been out collecting since last September and haven't camped out anywhere either. Needless to say, cabin fever had set in. Despite the fact that I should probably be at work and the yard was/is in desperate need of attention, I had to get out.

I had planned to head out of town around 4:00 pm but of course the fates conspired to hold me back in the city a little longer, but by 6:00 pm me and a friend of mine from the Northwest Rockies Club, Lisa Bishop, along with my two dogs Abbie and Rowdy were on I-90 and heading east. We made good time and the weather was cooperative so we were at the camp site in what seemed to be no time.

When we arrived Bill Cook and his grandson Zach and Zach's friends CJ and Buddy were setting up camp in what seems to have become our area for camping when at the Priest Rapids boat launch. The wind was blowing hard and it was dark but after we had the tent secured the rest of the camp was up quick. I think we all went to bed early that night and I slept great despite being camped next to a group of folks that stayed up late listening to music.

On Saturday morning I was up around the time that the sun started shining through the tent and I went down and paid my club dues and was ready to go. Bob and Alice Swartz arrived that morning, fresh from their motel room in Mattawa, along with Marvin who came over the Cascades that morning. They were all wondering if it was cold in the tent last night and I told them it might have been but I wasn't because I think I've learned my lesson about night temperatures during the Spring and Fall east of the Cascades and was prepared this time.

Anyway, some of Bill's friends from another club showed up that morning as well, though I forgot their names and while Bob and Alice and Marvin got in line to go on the field trips the rest of us were making breakfast. We took our time and went up after the Pow Wow folks had gone up the mountain.

At first we went up to the top of the mountain by the power lines and caught up with one of the Pow Wow groups there and dug for red skin limbs for a couple of hours. I found the usual material found there, some nice specimen pieces that will take a good polish, but nothing spectacular. After that our little group headed down to the area where picture wood can be collected and we met up with more folks there. Some were Bill's friends and there were some people there I know from West Seattle. As everybody got into looking for wood I started digging a pit not too far from my friends from West Seattle. As I was digging, and not finding much, they kept pulling out nice specimens from the hole that they were in.

This went on for hours! I kept digging and finding nothing and twenty feet away they were digging and pulling nice pieces out. But, after a couple of hours they decided that they had enough and packed up to go, giving me their hole to dig in. It wasn't too long before I had pulled out a nice limb as long as my hand and forearm as well as some other nice pieces. Before too long we headed back down to the Pow Wow so as not to miss the potluck dinner. In-between that time though one of Zach's friends had been bitten by a dog while digging for wood, which is another story, but it needs to be said that people need to keep their dogs under control or not bring them along. But that didn't ruin the weekend.

Saturday evening was pleasant. We attended the potluck and meeting and then had a nice campfire at our campsite. Zach and his two friends found some girls their ages to hang out with. Bill and Mia Smith showed up and Mia had a great time hanging out with my dogs who had already had a great day between playing fetch with anyone willing to throw a stick and swimming in the Columbia River. Non-stop all day! Later in the evening Mike Blanton arrived from the Yakima Show and the mid-year meeting in Kennewick. As the night wore on people slowly started to retire to their respective sleeping spots. Our neighbors were again up and playing music, but it didn't bother me to fall asleep to the sounds of Johnnie Cash while I smelled of campfire and the air was brisk.

The next morning everybody got up for pancake breakfast, including Bob and Alice fresh from the motel. After breakfast we broke camp and everybody but Lisa and I and the dogs went out to the diatom pits with the Pow Wow in the morning. No, we went back up the hill to dig in that hole, and we were not disappointed. I dug all morning and well into the afternoon, and kept pulling out nice pieces, including a solid piece of bog wood that has distinct limbs sticking out of it all over.

Around 2:30 in the afternoon we decided to head home, with a detour to the diatom pits to look for opal. After getting a little lost we found the pits, but boy were they picked over! Looking back on it now I should've known, because at camp I had seen some really nice big pieces of opal that other people had collected. That's OK though, I had a great time and got some nice pieces, collecting wood.

I had planned to stop at the rock shop in Vantage on the way home but by the time I got there it was too late, and it was dark by the time I got home and unpacked the car. I am really looking forward to more collecting trips as the weather gets warmer and the days get longer because I'm sure that before I know it will be the holidays again and I'll be wondering where the Summer went.

Happy rock hunting all.

Conrad Grundke's Guide to Selecting the Perfect Slab of Lepidolite

First, wet the slab. Then, wipe it with your left underarm. Then, with your right hand, raise it to the light and examine it for potential cracks. (Do the same when you buy it at the shows... it will impress the dealers!)

via Pegmatite, 2/06; from LA-Rocks

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>).

May 16 & 17 *North West Rockies - Saddle Mountain & Diatom Pits - Petrified Wood & Opal* - You will need light & digging tools - Meet at 9:00 at Matawa Lepricon
Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 or wsmced@hotmail.com

May 31 *BEMS - Greenwater - Agate, Jasper* - You will need digging & light hard rock tools - Meet at 9:00 at Enumclaw Ranger Station
Erik Chilson (360)-825-3138, infernalspawnofevil6@hotmail.com

Geode Cracking, Vise Destruction Made Easy by Kreigh Tomaszewski of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club of Wyoming

When I am cracking geodes, or splitting/trimming specimens, I use a "nutcracker" made from a big vise, two triangle files, and some tape. Open up the vise and tape the two triangle files to the faces, a flat side of a file to the vise face. It helps if the files point in opposite directions so their tapers offset each other. Center them along the vise faces so their pointed edges line up and meet.

You are going to use these two tool steel edges to split a rock on the line/plane between them. A vise can apply a lot of pressure - a rock can be very tough. Trying to split a rock thicker (in any dimension between the edges) than half the width of the vise face, could break a vise. (Been there, done that... more than once!). That "half" figure is by trial and error - I have not broken one at this limit yet, but your mileage may vary.

Wear eye protection. Splitting rock often propels shards. Be prepared because the two sides of the split rock are liable to take off up and down. (Wrap the vise and rock in a towel.) You might need, or want, to add a two or three foot length of pipe over the vise handle, to get easy leverage. Be careful! That leverage can be deceiving. It makes it much easier to break your vise! Pounding on the handle with a hammer, to tighten the vise, also can help break a stubborn rock. (Again, note the previous caution.)

My experience is that about 5% of rocks fail to break on the desired line, and about 10% crumble along the break line about half way and then break. Another 5% are just too tough to break, so you need to know when to give up, or you will break a vise. The rest are well-behaved, and break as expected.

Don't say I didn't warn you - you can break a vise trying this. But it works most of the time, and you might want to consider trying it.

via The Pegmatite, 4/05; via Arrowhead News, 3/05; from Rockhounds at Drizzle. Non-profit reprint permission given.

Dopping Mini-Cabs

Sometimes a finishing nail needs to be used for dopping smaller stones, but there isn't much bonding area, plus the nails are hard to hold onto as you work. One solution is to drive the finishing nail into the end of a wooden dowel (1/4 inch diameter), which gives good control. Using either red or black faceter's dop wax will also provide a little stronger bond than regular green dop wax.

Wooden shish-kabob skewers purchased at the local grocery store also work well. Cut the skewers to a comfortable length and apply enough dop wax to hold the stone.

For heat sensitive stones such as opal, paint the opal with nail polish and only warm the stone. The nail polish creates a good bond to the dop wax.

via Pegmatite, 1/07; via Chips 'n' Splinters, 3/03; from Lapidary Digest #189

Safety by Joe Hafeli, CFMS

As you take off on those summer field trips, remember DRINK lots of water. Tachycardia (rapid heart rate) and breathing problems can be caused by lack of sufficient water. When you are in high altitudes or engaging in considerable and unusual activity, you may have a shortage of oxygen due to your exertion and/or the rarefied density of oxygen. This can cause some dehydration. The heart beats faster to provide more oxygen, the blood thickens due to dehydration and cannot carry as much oxygen, and the speed increases and becomes too fast to provide enough oxygen to the system. Result: excessive speed of heartbeat (tachycardia).

Do not drink hard liquor which promotes dehydration. Stay out of the sun. Get to a hospital as soon as possible.

via Golden Spike News, 7/08; via Nodule Nocker News, 5/98; from CFMS Newsletter, 10/96



Shows



May 16 & 17: Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm

Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society

Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Hermiston Conference Center

4155 Hwy 395

Hermiston, Oregon

May 30 & 31: 10 am - 5 pm

West Seattle Rock Club

43rd Annual Show, President's Gemboree

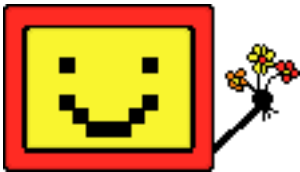
West Seattle Alki Masonic Temple

4736 40th Ave. SW.

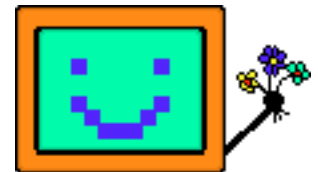
Seattle, WA



Internet Addresses



John Betts Fine Minerals
<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/>



Amethyst Galleries Mineral Gallery
<http://www.galleries.com/>

Dale Minerals International
<http://www.dalerocks.com/index.php>

MinVision
<http://www.minvision.com/>

Geologic Desires
<http://www.geologicdesires.com/>

Chris Tucker Minerals
<http://www.christuckerminerals.com/>

Universal Rock Shop
<http://universalrockshop.com/>

The Gem Shop, Inc.
<http://thegemshop.com/catalog/>



Vibrational Spectroscopy & Photo Atlas of Minerals
<http://www.mineralatlas.com>

