

DUSTY ROCKS

JULY
2011



ROCK AND ARROWHEAD CLUB

P.O. BOX 1803

KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97601

www.klamathrockclub.org

~ DUSTY ROCKS ~

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JULY 2011 ~ Rock and Arrowhead Club ~ Klamath Falls Oregon

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Committee Chairs

↔

Sunshine.....Chris Chance
Program.....Marshall Curran
Greeter/Door Prize.....Holly Zumbun
Refreshment.....Chris Chance
Historian.....Heidi Eli
Librarian.....Jessica Limb
CharityJohn Long
Claims Rep.....Garwin Carlson
Field Trips.....Marshall Curran
Black Light DisplayChuck Newnham
Show Chair.....Jennifer Zimmerlee
Asst Show ChairMarvin Stump
Safety Officer.....Jeff Eastburn
Publisher/ Webmaster.....Charlie Wyckoff

Meetings are held at the Klamath County Museum Meeting Room – Main & Spring Streets, using the *West* entrance. **Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm** with the exception of December when we have our Christmas Luncheon and Party and April after the show.

Visitors are cordially invited:

Dues are \$10.00 per year per adult (\$18 for couples), \$7.50 ages 16-18 and free for juniors ages 15 and under whose parents pay dues.

General Objectives of the Club:

To promote popular interest, knowledge and understanding in the various earth sciences, as in Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology and Lapidary and other related subjects. To sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons interested therein.

Helping Others:

The club participates in the NFMS stamp program, saving large commemoratives, airmail, pre-canceled, and foreign stamps of all values. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to benefit any charity deemed worthy by the NFMS Endowment Fund.

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THE NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER is published 11 times a year.

Copies are sent to each member's household. The cost is included in your annual dues.

Two free copies of the **AFMS NEWSLETTER** are mailed to each member club.

Subscriptions are available at \$3.50 for 9 issues. Send payment to:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
PO Box 26523 Oklahoma City, Ok. 73126.

We are affiliated with

- Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Clubs

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July 2011



From The Editor



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So many of you know my story, but for those who don't, a quick recap. I grew up as a RAC member and lived in the area, rocking with my Grandpa (I was Grandpa's girl). From here I moved to TN to go to college, fell in love, got married and stayed. Seventeen years later I moved back to take care of my Grandpa who died suddenly of a heart attack the same week my house in TN sold. So I was stuck here till after probate, got a job while my husband stayed in TN and worked. Recently my husband embarked on a new career in the wind industry and got a job in WA. I just sold my Grandpa's house (it will always be his house even though I've lived here for almost 3 years), in order to live with my husband. We do not know what adventure await us but are anxious to begin the next chapter of our lives. I have offered to continue to be newsletter editor if you want me, but if someone wants to take over that would be fine by me. July will be my last meeting for awhile. I will miss seeing everyone and spending times with my friends, but I'm available on Facebook, by email or by phone, please keep in touch and help me with club happenings for the newsletter so I don't feel so out of the loop. I'll be back for stuff, like the show, maybe field trips and the Christmas party so you can't get rid of me. I'm asking for help, I know my Grandpa would like to donate his rock collection to the club, Doris, Gene and Kathi came out for one load already, but we could use more help so please come out on the 23rd to load up some rock!



NEXT MEETING:

July 11th

- 7:00 pm
- Refreshments:
- Doreen Chase & Charlie Wyckoff
- Program:

Jennifer Zimmerlee



Happy Birthday America!

Happy Birthday!



- Ralph Branson - Estacada OR
- Betty Brunswick - Klamath Falls, OR
- Jamie Hawkins—Klamath Falls, OR
- Matthew Limb - Klamath Falls, OR
- Rod Riel - Springfield, OR

Refreshment List 2011

August	Linda Watson & Robert Gresham
September	Fairisine Fore
October	??? (your name here)!
November	??? (your name here)!



June 13th, 2011 Meeting Minutes *Submitted by Linda Watson*

Meeting called to order: 7:10pm Pledge of Allegiance

Guests: Steve Dian, Washington area. Bob & Diane George (belong to Klamath Prospectors), Denise Sebastian

Birthday donations accepted Door prize won by Leroy Bieler (beach glass donated by Ed Haas)

Minutes from Meeting – motion to approve by Barbara Massey , seconded by Sandy

Treasurer's Report: Motion: Kathi & Alyssa will room together at the Peppermill during NW Federation @ \$144 plus mileage costs – motion to cover their expenses. Leroy Bieler motioned, Marvin Stump seconded. Motion passed. Part of tonight's auction will cover food expenses for Kathi & Alyssa and part will cover some of the cost of the portapotty that we haul around on our field trips.

Sunshine Report: Chris reported that things are going smoothly. Suggested card for Heidi, who is not doing well.

Librarians report: Working on cataloging our library. Looking for some kind of shelves. Close to 100 resource items. Black light is found.

Historians Report: No report. Vicky brought in some old items from when she was past Historian – from the '70's.

NWF report: Kathi reported. Idaho Rock Club is organizing a trip to the Spencer Opal mines – the date is July 16th.

Charity: John reported. May – Klamath Hospice, June – Friends of Pets, July – American Cancer Society. \$25 will be sent to each of these charities.

Old Business: First Aid Kit – received a donation from Fairisine Fore. Laura is still working on getting it. Webmaster: transition from Charlie to Denise Sebastian. Rachel will assist as a Future Rockhound. Sandy volunteered to do the actual paper newsletter while Denise will do the e-newsletter. Title for the trailer has been found. The Executive Committee is working on the Bylaws. Marshall donated a firebox to the club to keep the important papers in.

New Business: Larry Phillips has designed a decal for your vehicle for \$3.00/each. Christine Chance will be the contact person for ordering. TShirts – prepaid list.

Field Trips: Leah received a thank you package for her expert handling of the porta potty at the Tuledad field trip.

Marvin Stump: elderly rock hound donated rocks to the club, the Zumbrum's started sorting for the show (about 1500 pounds). Potential field trip to Virgin Valley, 3rd weekend in August – he'll work on it. Tuledad: potluck held during hail/snow/wind storm.

Sandy: Tuledad – her 1st field trip. So much fun – loved rocks, loved the people!

Laura: Tuledad – snowing, but came out anyway. Only a rookie – she learned that the ENTIRE bed of the truck needed to be filled with rocks, not just one box. Played with hot melted glass at IYS – Eileen Paul was the hostess.

Doris: Two potlucks, both in the snow.

Cindy: Truck load – bent the springs – had a whole bed of rocks. Learned how to tent camp in the wind..

Linda: warm in tent – 3 dog night. Cold outside!!!! Winched out petrified root ball.

Chuck: Davis Creek – 1000 pounds, one weighs 155 pounds, all in the snow storm. Claim trip to his mine for the club Sept 18/19 – wants a head count (approx 15 people).

Jeff: 3 weeks in Australia. 7 Oaks in Inverall and found sapphires and zircons. Went and snorkeled on the Barrier Reef. Lightning Ridge – private mines and piles.

Program: Garwin talked about the upcoming sunstone trip, June 24th. He'll put up flags and be there for the weekend. Jeff will bring out porta potty. Silent auction went on. Adjourned at: 8:30ish.



July 2011

The Rock Pile



Rocks in the News

Let's go to a show or Meeting!



July 7-10 AFMS & EFMLS Meeting, Syracuse, NY

July 15-17 Reedsport, OR

June 23-24 Tenino, WA

June 23-24 Kalispell, MT

June 29-31 NFMS Annual Meeting & Show, Chehalis, WA

Mickey Gunter was growing up in McLeansboro his father, Marion Gunter, worked in the oil fields.

Gunter took an interest in the conversations his father had with others in his field regarding the minerals in the earth. The idea of a career in the field of minerals was compelling.

About 40 years later, Gunter, professor and chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Idaho, has a newly discovered mineral named for him in honor of his professional achievements in the world of mineralogy.

The new mineral is called gunterite, of the vanadate group, Gunter said. Gunter received his first sample of gunterite in April.

"It has a nice orangish color," Gunter said.

Someone discovered gunterite in a uranium mine in southwestern Colorado and could not identify it. That person submitted the sample to the International Mineralogical Association with the recommendation it be named in honor of Gunter for his contributions to the field of mineralogy. In his years in the field Gunter has published over 100 scholarly works and co-authored a mineralogy textbook that is used in colleges around the world.

From Brian DeNeal and the Daily Register



Sunshine Report

Please keep the Newnham and Sayles families in your thoughts and prayers! Doris Newnham's mother recently passed away and Andrew Sayles (who often helps at the shows and his brother and mother are members) was in a car accident.

When: July 23rd, 11:00 am

What: Lots of pick up trucks and strong backs.

Why: To donate the rest of my rock collection to the club, please come help load up a large collection to help the club for many years to come.

Where: 10584 E Langell Valley Rd, Bonanza OR

541-545-6773



Field Trip at My House!

Come out on July 23rd and help load/dig rocks. **You dig it, you can keep it.** Lots of cool specimens for you to dig up plus you can help load the other stuff into the trucks.

Ask Doris, Gene or Kathi who helped take a load a couple of weeks ago, there is plenty to dig.

Chris got some nice pieces when she was here too!

Sunstone Field Trip, Plush Oregon

June 24th, 25th, & 26th



Garwin reported that we had over 30 people and 6 dogs show up for a beautiful weekend of digging on the claim. They came from as far away as Newberg Oregon and Washington state to find a lot of sunstones. Garwin showed off the techniques and then said that several of the new visitors and members cleaned up, hauling in a lot more sunstones than he did. It also seemed that the best collecting this time was surface screening or picking rather than the hard rock mining. We know of at least two flat tires and unknown told adventures. Here are some pictures from Jeff who we thank for bringing the porta-potty. Don't forget that you are welcome as a club member to go out to the claim on your own whenever you want, or feel free to use our Facebook page to recruit some other members for a mini field trip!



PROPOSED VIRGIN VALLEY FIELD TRIP AUGUST 20 & 21, 2011

This is the first call to determine the interest in having a field trip to Virgin Valley, Nevada to look for precious opal. The club had a field trip to Virgin Valley last August with 9 members and had a great time. We spent Saturday at the Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine and some spectacular precious opal was found. I found a real nice cone (supposedly from a sequoia) but unfortunately it did not have fire in it. On Sunday we visited two of John Church's claims (Swordfish Mining), we did not find any precious opal, but brought home petrified wood and explored some areas most people don't get to walk over.

At the July meeting we will discuss the field trip in more detail and have a sign-up sheet to get an idea of how many people would like to be involved. There are four mines that are open for fee digs and possibly one of John's claims. I have not contacted John yet about this years possibilities for his claims but will do so prior to the July meeting.

VIRGIN VALLEY is located in Northwest Nevada just south of the Oregon border, 100 miles from Lakeview and 135 miles from Winnemucca. Travel time from Klamath Falls is around 3½ to 4½ hours depending on type of vehicle and if pulling a trailer. Access is by Highway 140. The campground is on the south side of Hwy 140 and about 3 miles from Hwy 140. There are toilets, a naturally heated hot water shower and outdoor swimming pool, and a few small trees.

There are four mines that are open for fee digs. The information shown for each mine is 2010 information. Web sites for the four mines and Swordfish Mining can be found under the following web sites (and I encourage people to look at them prior to the July meeting):

www.thegemdealer.com www.goldnuggetwebs.com/VVOPALS/index.html This site has good maps.

BONANZA OPAL MINE – Fresh tailing digging is \$60/person/day, 12 and under free with paid adult. \$10 discount for rock club members with proof. PH. 864 597-1421 / 864 597-1421 Web: www.bonanzaopals.com.

THE OPAL QUEEN - \$150/person/day bank digging, \$75/day tailing digging, PH. 775 941-0130 / 775 941-0130 Web: www.opalqueen.com.

RAINBOW RIDGE OPAL MINE – New material is \$500/day for one or two adults, \$70/person/day for tailings. PH. 775 941-0270 // 775 941- Web: www.nevadaopal.com.

ROYAL PEACOCK OPAL MINE – Bank digging \$180/person/day, \$75/person/day for tailings. 17 space RV park plus tent camping. Laundry room & toilet/shower room. Bag ice, cold pop, pure well water, grass picnic area. PH. 775 941-0374 // 775 941-0374 Web: www.royalpeacock.com

ITEMS TO BRING – This is sagebrush desert country and the most important thing to have is plenty of water. In most places there is little or no shade and it is easy to dehydrate. For working the ground suggested items are: small pick, small garden rake, small shovel or trowel, spray bottle with water, buckets for collecting specimens plus an extra bucket to sit on, sun block, wide brimmed hat, long sleeved shirt, and gloves.

HOW TO KNOW WHERE TO TURN OFF HWY. 140 – Traveling from Lakeview on Hwy 140, it is about 68 miles from Hwy 395 to the Oregon/Nevada border. The road going into Virgin Valley is approximately 20 miles after entering Nevada. There is a rest area on Hwy 140 just west of the Virgin Valley access road. There is also a sign on the road inviting people to come into the opal mines and collect "black fire opal".

For the folks who have had successful trips to Virgin Valley **PLEASE BRING VIRGIN VALLEY TREASURES TO THE JULY MEETING** to share with other club members and get them excited about this trip.

Lassen Creek/Davis Creek Trip

July 16th & 17th

Obsidian

Come join us at Davis Creek CA (about 40 miles south of Lakeview, OR) for a fun weekend of camping and rock digging. Our goal is obsidian, Gold Sheen, Pink, Needles & Rainbow being the most common. On occasion you can find other cool stuff in the area too! The club usually meets and camps at the Lassen Creek Campground, about 11 miles north of Davis Creek Store. Some members go up Friday and enjoy the Davis Creek Store's awesome BBQ on Friday July 16th, lots of food at a cheap price. No matter what make sure you stop at the Davis Creek Store to pick up your obsidian permits if you plan on leaving with any rock, people have been stopped before! Our club will be doing a benefit silent auction (proceeds to help Kathi with travel money for the NW Federation trip) . We will also have a pot luck /Dutch Oven Cooking Saturday night, so please bring something to share. We are going to dig holes, start cooking early and offer to help/teach Dutch Oven cooking for those who are interested. It is in the mountains so there is shade and creeks, but it still can get hot. Tires are often an issue as obsidian is very sharp and cut a tire easily so be prepared by checking your spare and bring the right tools. Also obsidian can be sharp on hands, feet, legs, arms and pet paws, make sure you have a good first aid kit. On your way you can stop at Surprise Valley and enjoy the view, we have a map attached and look forward to seeing you there!

Times were hard out in the cold, windy, and sleet of the Nevada desert. We all got together and made a delicious meal. Everyone brought a little something for the pot, where would you find a better place to make "Stone Soup". With everyone sharing good food and a roaring bonfire, we nearly forgot about the weather. NOT! (pictures and story from Tuledad trip from Chris Chance)



More from Tuledad!



More Sunstone Pictures! **Field Trips**



Davis Creek Ca. ~ Lassen Creek Campground ~ Obsidian Digs

