



BUGLE



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RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB
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Editor: Gordon Burkholder
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Regular monthly meeting
2nd Friday each month at 7:30 pm
(Except June, July & August)
Craft Room, Campbell River Community Hall
401-11th Ave
Campbell River, BC



RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB

RIPPLE ROCK EXECUTIVE 2016

President	Kathy Young	250-285-3343
Vice-President	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
Past President	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
Secretary	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388
Treasurer	Dennis Cambrey	250-337-8949
Wagonmaster	Shane Mawhinney	250-285-3465
Assistant Wagonmaster(s)	Ken Palmblad	
Show Chair	Pat Doyle	
Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Shop Maintenance		
Entertainment		250-285-2377
Publicity	Diane Cooper	250-830-0889
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Library	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
Showcase	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Slab Draw/Collection	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Coffee Break	Jack and Jan Boyes	
Basic Lapidary Instructor	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388

Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

Senior	Gordon Burkholder
Intermediate	Jan Boyes
Junior	Ulla Williams

WORKSHOP

Shop located at 246 Dahl Rd.
 For general shop info contact
Beba Adams 250-926-0044
The workshop hours are posted on the club website.
www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com

MEMBERSHIPS

A single membership is \$15.00 and a family is \$25.00. Memberships may be paid at the General meetings or by mail to Box 6 Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9.

Membership Moment

I'd just like to mention the names of the members who have renewed or joined the club since last month. These are; Bonnie Deslaurier, Shaun Flanagan, Derek Harris, Garth McFarlane, Joyce Pelltier, Ed Ritcey, and Richard and Faye Thompson.

Welcome!

This brings our total number of memberships to 47. It does not include the total number of members as many of our memberships (16) are of the 'family' type. So we have approximately 70 members at present.

Dennis Cambrey

Wagons Ho!

Hello, fellow rockhounds!

Here are the details on our upcoming trip to Yale Bar on the Fraser River.

Firstly, I am changing the dates of the trip, moving it up by one week to the weekend of **March 12 & 13**. The reason is that this season is warmer than usual and I'm concerned that the river may start to rise making the bar at Yale inaccessible.

At this point I don't have a list of who might be coming. I need you to contact me if you are planning on going so that I know who to expect. My phone number is [250-285-3465](tel:250-285-3465).

TRIP DETAILS: We will meet at the Yale bar at 10 am on March 12th and also on the 13th.

TO GET THERE: driving the trans-Canada just north of Yale, take the first right immediately after crossing a small bridge. This road goes across the railroad tracks and that is where the Yale bar is. If you happen to go through a tunnel you have gone too far. This is where we will meet.

Yale is cold this time of year so prepare to keep warm and be ready for rain. Sturdy footwear is a must as the bars are full of boulders and in some places can be slippery. A squirt bottle is great for making the rocks shine and washing off the silt. Rock hammer, backpack or bucket for carrying your rocks.

Hope to see you there, and remember to contact me if you are planning on joining this trip!

Shane Mawhinney, Wagon Master

Zone Report

The March meeting is slated for the 20th of March to be held at the Victoria Club's clubhouse. Jan Boyes has been providing information, including a map, (thank-you, Jan!) of the location. Once again let me say that all members that they are welcome to attend these meetings.

Ulla Williams (treasurer) will be chairing the meeting in my absence.

Don't forget to support our Zone member club's shows. **Port Alberni** has its show on the **12 and 13 of March** and **Victoria** the **following weekend**. This is always an

exciting time of year. Renewing acquaintances and shopping for great stones, etc. is what the Zone is all about!

Gordon Burkholder, Senior Zone Delegate

Web Site Data from the Web Master

Interest in our club and general inquiries from the public this month reminds me that our website is accessible world wide. I continue to provide information to the public on the events, activities and interests of our membership. Check out the monthly schedule of shop openings and re-read the Bugle if you've misplaced yours. While you're at the web site check out the new link to Dave Owen's jewelry. It is amazing as is he. For more info, and to contact Dave, go to his facebook page by following his links.

Janet Burkholder

Editor's Message

Is it just me or do you feel that time moving more quickly these days? I'm glad I there's an extra day in February this year 'cause I'm behind in my work! In this issue I am looking at the various set ups that people have for lapidary work while not at home. A recent inquiry about drilling large rocks has also piqued my interest and so I'll be exploring that as well. (Maybe there will even be an upcoming article.)

Hopefully your winter is drawing to a close and everyone is happily looking forward to a warm spring and more outdoor pursuits.

Gordon Burkholder

Quotable quote: *Everything happening now happens because of everything that has happened before. Anonymous*

Travelling Lapidary

Special on the road Report

By Gordon Burkholder

The trouble I've always had when travelling is how to take along the things I like without packing an extra bag, or as in this case, another trailer. I have given up golf, left my guitar at home and can only pack my sandals, runners, hiking boots and flip flops. What do I do without my gumboots, work boots, cowboy boots, loafers, or holeys?

In the case of lapidary I am really travelling light. I have my Inland 8" 'swap top' flat lapping machine and that's it! I am adding the trim saw kit and I have access to Jan's 12V Dremel. But even with these limitations, there are still a lot of things I can do with this simplified workshop.



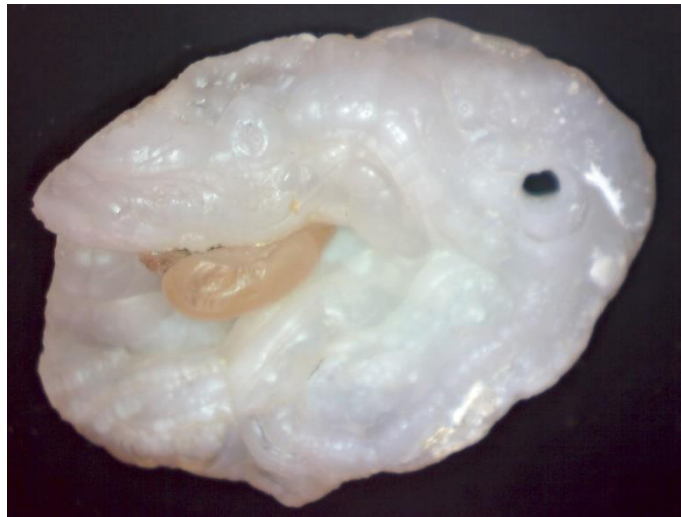
Worksite with Honda 1000 generator in background



8" swaptop flatlapper, diamond grinding plates, water bucket and tools

Most places I stay while travelling don't have an electric power supply and I don't like to draw on too much solar power (in case I can't re-charge due to clouds etc.) so I carry along a generator to run the equipment. It's not too noisy and quite economical.

I am working on creating quartz and chalcedony 'desert rose' pendants right now using the tools at hand.



Chalcedony rose flat-lapped, drilled and ready for a bail and chain

TRAVELLING LAPIDARY PART II

Diana Hurd and her husband Don, of Ladysmith, BC have been coming to the Arizona desert for 10 winters now. Diana was introduced to lapidary 10 years ago at the Voyager RV park in Tucson and has been working with rocks ever since.



Diana working at her outdoor shop

Presently she is using a Barranca Diamond grinding and polishing system which incorporates an expandable 1.5 inch x 6 inch drum with an assortment of gritted belts, 2 grinding wheels; 80 grit and 120 grit, and a polishing pad. She also has a trim saw attachment. All of this is powered by the solar system set up to run their RV. That system includes eight 6V batteries charged by 2 large solar panels.



Diana's shop layout

Diana is also learning the art of silver-smithing and she incorporates locally collected as well as purchased stones into her creations.



Turquoise, lapis, chrysocolla, chalcedony pieces



Rough rock ready for the grinder/polisher

Diana's set up stays year-round at her place in AZ. Her current plans include another week-long silver-smithing course at the Voyager RV Park.

G. Burkholder

TRAVELLING LAPIDARY PART III

Therese Wilson is relatively new to the world of lapidary arts. She got her introduction to working with rocks while staying at the RV Park just 4 years ago. But she got the rock hounding bug as a young girl. Her neighbour clinched it when he let her use his lapidary equipment to shape her own rock. Her passion for lapidary and silver-smithing is evident in the work she has done and continues to do.

Therese and her husband Jay are 'full-time' RVers and they have set up in a mobile 'studio' in a large hauling trailer which is outfitted with her Genie and silver-smithing equipment. "This is only the first year of the studio and the plans are to make a dedicated solar system for it to provide all the power." Therese states.



The trailer housing the workshop and Therese's work station.

Her Genie has the usual assortment of 8 inch wheels and includes a trim saw as well as the polishing pad attachments. Her husband Jay has done some nifty electrical work for her providing a bank of overhead lights. All of this is run by solar power provided by 2 large solar panels and a bank of four 6V batteries.

When I caught up to her she was working on some turquoise pieces and was very excited by the quality of the stones. Her enthusiasm for working with rocks and creating pieces for wire wrapping or settings is obvious and one can't help but feel the excitement she feels when working with stone.



Therese at work

G. Burkholder

Quote: I have found out that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them. *Mark Twain*

WHAT'S THAT ROCK?

Chalcedony



Chalcedony, also spelled calcedony, is a very fine-grained (cryptocrystalline) variety of the silica mineral quartz. It has a waxy luster and appears in a great variety of colors -- usually blue-white, buff, light tan, gray, yellow or brown.

A form of chert, it forms rounded crusts, rinds or stalactites (mineral deposits suspended from the roofs of caverns) in volcanic and sedimentary surroundings. It has a compact fibrous structure and fine splintery fracture.

In the petrified forests of the desert southwest, many of the original tree tissues have been replaced by chalcedony in the formation of petrified wood. What remains is a mineral replica of the original tree in various fantastic colors. The brilliant reds and greens are caused primarily by traces of iron oxides. Some of the best displays of petrified wood can be seen in eastern Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park.

In all ages many varieties of chalcedony have been used as gems, and many colored varieties are still cut and polished as ornamental stones. Unless it is intricately carved or featured, chalcedony is valued much less than it once was. Commercial production is primarily in Uruguay, Brazil and southwestern Africa.

It is said that chalcedony was used as a sacred stone by the Native Americas, promoting stability within the ceremonial activities of the tribe. Chalcedony is said to augment emotional balance, vitality, stamina, endurance, kindness, charity and friendliness. It supposedly alleviates hostilities, irritability and melancholy.

Chalcedony occurs in many varieties and colors. If chalcedony is conspicuously color-banded, it may be called agate, and with other minerals it has various other names including:

Agate: This common semiprecious variety of chalcedony is conspicuously color-banded with other minerals in successive layers. It occurs in bands of varying color and transparency in cavities of eruptive rocks or ancient lava.



Brazilian agate

Agates come in many varieties themselves, including the following: **Moss Agate** also called **Mocha Stone**; this grayish to milky-white chalcedony contains dark-colored, dendritic branching forms that resemble ferns, moss, or other vegetation. These formations are caused by the inclusion of mainly manganese and iron oxides of inorganic origin. Most moss agates are found as fragments weathered from volcanic rocks. It has long been used for ornamental purposes.



Moss agate cabachon

Onyx is a striped, semiprecious variety of agate that has black and white alternating bands. Onyx is used in carved cameos and intaglios because its layers can be cut to show a color contrast between the design and the background. Onyx is one of the 12 stones mentioned in the Bible as adorning the breastplate of the high priests.



Onyx

Bloodstone: Also called **Heliotrope**, this dark-green variety of chalcedony has nodules of bright-red jasper distributed throughout. Bloodstone was greatly prized in the middle ages and was used in sculptures representing flagellation and martyrdom.



Bloodstone

Carnelian: Translucent red chalcedony is called carnelian, which owes its red color to hematite (iron oxide). It is a close relative of Sard, which is brown in color. The Greeks and Romans used carnelian in rings and signets.



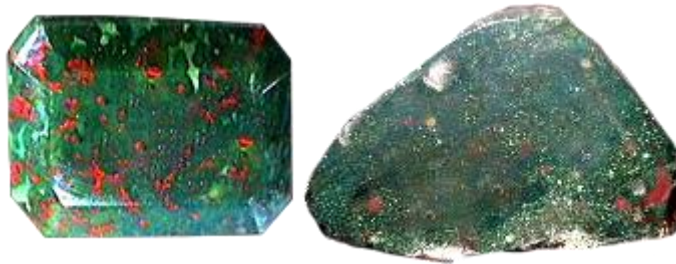
Carnelian agate

Chrysoprase: This brittle, translucent form of chalcedony owes its bright, apple-green color to the inclusion of nickel silicates, but heating or prolonged exposure to sunlight causes the color to fade.



Chrysoprase (Chrysoprase) in matrix

Plasma: This semi-translucent, micro-granular variety of chalcedony occurs in various shades of green, caused by amphibole or chlorite inclusions. Plasma often has nodules of gray quartz or bloodstone throughout its mass. It has long been used for carvings and mosaics.



Plasma chalcedony cabochon and rough rock

Information courtesy of the Internet. GB

Final Thought: Even Napoleon had his Watergate. *Yogi Berra*