



## BUGLE



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RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB  
Box 6, Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9

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Regular monthly meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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
Bugle Editor & Distribution	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
<b>Non-Executive Positions</b>		
Webpage Manager	Janet Burkholder	info@ripplerockgemand mineralclub.com
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	Jan Boyes
Intermediate	Ulla Williams
Junior	Up for election

## 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](http://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.

**Web Site Data from the Web Master**

The Club is looking for someone to take over the website duties.

Janet Burkholder will continue to update the web page until someone takes over for her. Please contact Janet for information about this position.

**Members' Reminder**

Club Elections are held in November and the nominations for the positions should be made this month. We need members to volunteer for the executive positions of:

President   Vice President   Treasurer   Secretary   Show Chair   Assistant Show Chair  
Shop Foreperson   Shop Maintenance   Wagon Master   Assistant Wagonmaster   Club Publicity  
Entertainment Chair   Junior Zone Representative   and Bugle Editor.

Several of the existing executive members are willing to stay on in some position but a sustainable organization needs new people to come forward with their own ideas and opinions. Please consider becoming a member of the executive and get your nomination at the meeting on Friday.

**Gemboree Report**

**Gemboree 2017**  
***Cluxewe Resort at Port McNeill***  
***July 20-23, 2017***

The Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral Club of Campbell River is pleased to host the 2017 Zone Gemboree at the Cluxewe Resort near Port McNeill, BC on Vancouver Island. This campground, just 8 Km north of the turn-off to Port McNeill on Highway 19, opens up exploration to the mineral and rock rich North Island.

Cluxewe Resort offers cabins, RV and tenting sites as well as a gift shop and restaurant. Washrooms and shower facilities are available to those who make the journey. Please make sure you book your site early as it is a popular vacation and fishing destination during the summer months. We have a full selection of activities planned for each of the days including a tailgater for early arrivers on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Because of the distances to these great rock collecting sites we are not over scheduling activities for each day. Rock hounds will have a choice of trips that will satisfy your interests and collecting wishes. Our goal here is to give you an opportunity to see some of the fantastic places on the North Island, fill your rock buckets, and to reconnect with friends and acquaintances of the Island Rock Clubs.

## **Gemboree Schedule**

Thursday, July 20

- Registration
- Tailgate sale
- Demonstrations
- Campfire / Entertainment

Friday, July 21

- Field trip choice 1- 2
- Demonstrations
- Pot Luck Dinner
- Campfire / Entertainment

Saturday July 22

- Field trip choice 2 – 1
- Demonstrations
- BBQ dinner
- Campfire / Entertainment

Sunday July 23

- Pancake Breakfast
- Auction
- Demonstrations
- Campfire / Entertainment

### **Important Information**

**\*\*\* Book your site early to ensure a spot and when booking tell them you are with the Gemboree. If you wish one of the reserved unserviced sites please make sure the booking agent knows.\*\*\***

### **Full Registration**

The full registration fee is \$50 per person and includes BBQ dinner (\$10 per person) and Pancake breakfast (\$10 per person).

**Early registration by March 31** is only \$30 per person and gives you a free BBQ dinner and Pancake breakfast.

**Demonstrations** (subject to registration and change)

Wire wrapping

Silversmithing

Beading

Metal detecting (using a metal detector)

Carving/sculpting

## Things to bring

- An entertainment activity (sing along, skit, etc.)
- Donations to the Auction
- Food item for the potluck (main courses, desserts, side dishes)
- Fishing and swimming gear
- Musical instruments
- Items for tailgate sale
- Cups, plates and cutlery for all community meals

## Cluxewe Resort

Visit [www.cluxeweresort.com](http://www.cluxeweresort.com) for camping details and a map of sites as well as directions to the Resort and activities and events in the Port McNeill area. The phone number is 250-949-0378 (if your internet is down).

Though Northern Vancouver Island is wild and sparsely populated, getting there is simple. BC Ferries service the southern cities of Nanaimo and Victoria with many sailings each day. The Inland Island freeway takes you quickly through the South part of the Island and stops at the North's doorstep in Campbell River. From there you drive two hours to Port McNeill (you might want to stop for supplies there). Nine kilometres (5 1/2 miles) north of the Port McNeill turnoff, you will see a blue highway sign directing you to turn right onto a gravel road. Follow it for 1 kilometre (.6 of a mile) and you'll come to our office. The group activities will be held around the Pavilion (see site map) so can book as close to or as far away from the action as you wish.

### **Cluxewe Resort**

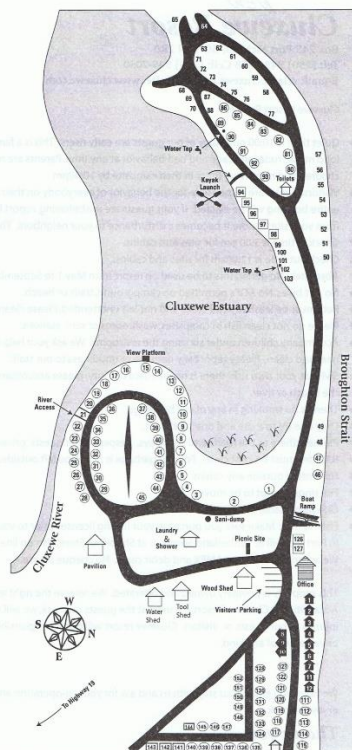
Tel: (250) 949-0378  
relax@cluxewe.com  
www.cluxewe.com

Estuary Sites: 1 - 45  
Spit Sites: 50 - 103  
Waterfront Sites: 111 - 115  
Overflow Sites: 117 - 123

#### RATES:

- Un-serviced Sites - \$19
- Ⓜ Power - \$21
- Ⓜ Power, Water & Sewer - \$25
- Ⓜ Pavilion - \$30
- Ⓜ Cottages - \$125 - \$165
- Ⓜ Building
- Ⓜ Day Picnicing - \$15

Prices are subject to change without notice.



***\*Early bird registration (save \$20) – March 31, 2017\****

For info Gordon Burkholder – [gdburk1953@gmail.com](mailto:gdburk1953@gmail.com) or Janice Boyes – [janboyes@telus.net](mailto:janboyes@telus.net)

**GEMBOREE 2017 – REGISTRATION FORM**

*Please make cheques payable to “Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral Club”*

*Please mail registration form along with payment to:*

*Janice Boyes  
2916 Macaulay Rd.  
Black Creek, BC, V9J 1B9*

Name(s)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Club \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/health concerns \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop/Activity Choices – Please choose per person.**

Wire wrapping \_\_\_\_\_ Silversmithing \_\_\_\_\_ Beading \_\_\_\_\_  
Metal detecting \_\_\_\_\_ Carving/sculpting \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration information – Please check all that apply**

- Registration fee (3 days) \$30.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Single day (Friday or Saturday or Sunday) \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Friday evening barbeque \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday pancake breakfast 10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Early registration (save \$20) \$30.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed with registration** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the Gemboree and remember,  
Book your camping site early!**

## Editor's Note

This Thanksgiving issue will be the last one I write from the warmth of my office. I am looking forward to writing about rock hounding while on the road. I can still be reached via email [gdburk1953@gmail.com](mailto:gdburk1953@gmail.com) if you want to have anything included in the 'Bugle'.

**Gordon Burkholder**

## Broom Casting

By Dennis Chapman,

*Tooele Gem & Mineral Permission to reprint for noncommercial purposes*

Direct casting is an easy, low-tech method of making beautiful freeform jewelry. In this article I will focus on using Sterling Silver and broom straw. This broom casting gives you a great stalagmite and stalactite effect. If you do larger pieces you will should bright burnish it to get a polish, and that is the most costly part, but I think it is money well spent, and can be used in other projects.

### Supplies

- Silver: I use silver scraps, or get a 1 oz. fine silver coin (.999) and add 2.5 grams of copper (I pay 35-50 cents over spot at a local refinery or coin store), or finally you can buy Sterling Casting Shot (about \$2+ over spot).
- Crucible: A block of wood (6 in. long 2x4), or a magnesia block, or a well-used charcoal block. Make a little indent near one side to melt your silver in the wood or magnesia block.
- Empty Soup Can: To stand the bundle of straw upright.
- Broom Straw: Old straw broom, decorative broom straw from a craft store, long pine needles etc.
- Dish Pan: Or anything big enough for the straw to soak in water.
- Rubber Bands
- Casting Flux: Borax works fine for the 2x4, but is too messy for the magnesia block or charcoal block; there I use regular Casting Flux (it only uses a few granules to clean the molten metal).
- Torch: Hand held propane torch will work fine or an acetylene and oxygen torch. (magnesia blocks melt at 2000 deg. and acetylene and air torch flame is also around 2000 deg. so it will eventually melt the block.
- Large Cup of Water: To extinguish the straw and cool casting.
- Cookie Sheet: Anything with a lip around the edge to catch the silver when you open the straw.
- Silver Solder
- Soldering Flux: For soldering.
- Pickling Acid: To clean the metal.
- Copper Tongs: A flattened copper tube will work. Flatten and bend, like tongs.
- Baking Soda: To neutralize the pickling acid.
- Rotary Power Tool: Smaller pieces you can just use a steel or brass wheel for a hand held rotary power tool and some white diamond prepolish.

## Bright Burnishing Supplies

- Small Rock Tumbler: Flat sides inside preferable.
- Steel or Stainless Steel Shot Mix: Enough to fill tumbling drum 1/3-2/3 full. Seasoned with a little extra Pin Shot (stainless shot costs 3 times more, but doesn't rust).
- Lapidary Soap and/or Burnishing Compound
- Abrasive Plastic Media Pyramids: Medium & Fine

### Polishing Supplies

- Polishing Cloth

### Extras

Solder, Bails, Chains, Stones, etc.

Wait until you are finished, and you have let your imagination loose.

## Let's Get Started

### Prepare the Straw

1. Bundle the straw (about 2-3 inch) in a rubber band. 2. Soak it in a pan of water for about 20 minutes. 3. Put bundle in the soup can and spread top end. The more the straw is spread, the larger and fatter the piece.

### Melt & Pour Silver:

1. Put some of your Sterling Silver into the bowl in the crucible (I like to use no more than a 1/3 oz. on each piece, and do several in a sitting).
2. Light the torch and begin melting. You will know if you need casting flux, if you have some bright glowing floaties on top of the silver when it starts to ball up. If needed, remove torch and add casting flux (a pinch of Borax or a few grains of casting flux), and then reheat.
3. When it starts getting fluid (it will jiggle when you can shake it), lift crucible to the top of the broom straw. While keeping the torch on the metal, quickly tip and let the metal roll off the crucible.

**Important:** you have 3 visual levels of the metal. 1st Crusty ball. 2nd Spinning, this is actually the copper & silver separating, this is when you pour. 3rd Boiling, TOO HOT, it jumps around and looks like tiny fireworks coming off the metal, the metal is actually vaporizing. If it gets this hot you will have air bubbles in the silver that you won't see till you're done.

**Note:** I don't like to use a carbon rod on direct casting, but stirring with one will reduce air bubbles.

4. Set crucible down and pour water over the top of the straw to put out any fire and cool metal. It doesn't hurt to submerge straw in the same pan you soaked the straw in to make sure the metal is cool. If you are using a 2x4 you will need to drench it too.
5. Place bundle on the cookie sheet and take off rubber bands and look for the pieces of silver in there. The small pieces make nice accents for other jewelry.

### Finishing

1. Clean the pieces of all burned & unburned straw, you may need to reheat with the torch to burn it off excess. Be careful not to melt the small prongs.
2. Solder on a bail. And if you want, a crown or cup for a stone if you want.
3. Throw in an acid pickle to remove any dark oxidation on the silver. Pull out the piece with copper tongs and drop into the baking soda and water mixture to neutralize the acid. Then rinse.



4. Put a steel or brass wheel on your hand held rotary power tool, add a little white diamond prepolish to the wheel and lightly work off any white residue left on the piece. You can skip this step if you bright burnish.

Bright Burnishing: (Optional but better results).

1. Steel shot only: Add ½ tsp. to 1 Tbsp. of burnishing compound, to your steel shot, and your pieces to the tumbling drum. Add enough water to cover shot. Tumble for 2-8 hours (depends on how much white residue you have).

2. Abrasive Pyramids & Steel Shot: Mix it same as above (except use lapidary soap for the pyramids), but tumble for 1 hour with medium pyramids, 1 hour with fine, 1-3 hours with steel shot. For a smoother texture double time with pyramids, more texture use only steel shot.

3. Drying Steel Shot: If you use plain steel, rinse and put on cookie sheet, pop into a 250 deg. oven until dry. It will rust if stored damp!!!

**Note:** Vibrating Tumblers are faster, but finding one that can handle the weight of the shot is harder to find.

Polishing:

1. If you didn't bright burnish it, you will need to polish by buffing it with some zam. 2. When it comes out of the bright burnishing it is pretty well polished, but a good wipe with a polishing cloth will improve the looks.

Setting A Stone:

1. Put your stones in your setting. Small needle crystals & tourmalines look wonderful in the groves. You can set them with a little instant glue or epoxy.

Reference: Don Norris's Needle Casting:

<http://pineneedlecasting.homestead.com/Main.html> Jay Bown: <http://www.tech-inc.com/gcbook/> And Many Other Good People

