



BUGLE



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

Editor: Gordon Burkholder
Format Design: Janet Burkholder

Volume 27
Copy 8

September 2016

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
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Assistant Wagonmaster(s)	Ken Palmblad	
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Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
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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

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.

Special Show Edition

Web Site Data from the Web Master

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

Members' Reminder

The first meeting of the fall session is this Friday at the Community Center at 7:30 Bring along something to share with the group. I will have a quiz for entertainment.

Slab sale, attendance draw, and entertainment prize are all happening!

Editor's Note

September has come around quickly! I didn't get out rock hounding as often as I would have liked this summer but spent a lot of time cutting rocks. This edition of the "Bugle" is mainly focussed on what's been happening for a few of our members. I hope their exploits entertain and inform you about collecting and hounding for rocks in 'foreign' places as much as it did for me.

Gordon Burkholder

ROCKHOUNDING DOWN UNDER

Photos and Article by Ken and Toni Palmblad



Kenny finds a rock down under!

We arrived in Tasmania on February 2 for our nearly 3 month visit with friends. The McManns have been in Tasmania for several years employed in the fish farming

industry there. We had been planning this trip for a few years and decided, finally to take the plunge and get over to 'Tas' as the locals call it.

Mike, Toni and I went searching for pyrite balls which range in size from ½" up to 1" in diameter. The spot we searched didn't turn up any pyrite so we changed our hunt to quartz crystals with the same results. We couldn't find the right road in the maze of forestry tracks. We did see a few critters which were unusual to us. Saw my first tiger snake and an echidna attempting to bury itself in the ground.



Digging for treasure

My next trip was with Grieg and Jane looking for trilobites. We covered a lot of ground on overgrown roads but couldn't locate the site. Our directions were provided by a forester who hadn't been at the site for nearly 30 years.

On the 20th of February Mike and I drove the 3 hour trip to Lune River in the South of Tasmania. The ground was hard and the bush thick but we did find previous digs and came back with agates, petrified wood, jasper, a piece of "man fern" and some 'leaverite'. We were told that we were lucky to find a piece of the misnamed man fern.



How can I put that in my suitcase?

Mike, Toni and I joined Nigel who had worked in the forest industry most of his life and who had a wealth of information on a search for quartz crystals. After locating the site

we dug into the bank which produced individual crystals up to 1", clusters of small crystals and clumps of a white matrix lined with small crystals. I was given a very early birthday gift of a membership in the Hobart Lapidary Club and on March 1st I made the 70 Km drive for my first visit. It was an amazing place even though I was reprimanded by a fellow member for wearing open toed shoes! Safety first!



Club Workshop

The 2 trim saws were using an oil coolant and cutting was priced by the centimeter. The 4 flat lappers each had a different grit so that made it easier to move along in the process and prevents cross contamination. Clean up was done from finest to coarsest wheels for the same reason. Upstairs was a room dedicated to working on opals.



Rock Shop

The parking lot of the clubhouse has an area for "waste" rock and any member may hunt through the pieces to find items to use. The area is 100 feet long and 1 ½ feet wide. I'm not sure how deep it goes as I only looked on the surface for treasures. That is something I did on every visit to the Club house.

The Hobart Lapidary Club is very civilized as it has a Tea time (with tea and biscuits) scheduled for ¾ of the way through each session. This is a long standing tradition with the Hobart Club members and everyone stops their workings to join in. It is considered rude to skip the gathering!

I found the members to be very helpful and was offered advice as well as sample rocks. I was also introduced to Ross Jones who is an expert on Man fern. He cuts them thin

and mounts them for collectors. He has produced a book with many beautiful colour photos of the misnamed fossil.

My next adventure took Mike and me to the Tunnel Marsh in search of agates, petrified wood and jasper. After driving the 2 hours to the area we headed through the marsh. Mike has long legs and seemed to glide over the terrain while I stumbled along. What bothered me most however, was his, "Watch out for snakes!" comment.

We spent over 2 hours in an effort to find samples but it wasn't until our return trip over new ground that we discovered signs of past diggings that rewarded us with rocks to take home. We got samples of everything we were looking for.



Toni and her treasures

Nigel took Mike and me to an old homestead near Bothwell to look for petrified wood that had been used in the walls made by convicts when they had cleared the land. The stone turned out to be rock. We also searched another 2 sites for artifacts. One surprise find made by Nigel was a small meteorite which he presented to me.



Old Homestead

A few days after the Hobart Rock Show, Toni and I flew to Sydney, took a train to Grafton and then caught a bus to reach GI. In the morning we checked in at the Service Center where the Minerama was on. We had booked an excursion with Rob to his property. The site was beautiful with its own creek running through. Rob had been told that there were no precious gems on this piece of land but the display case full of cut gems he has found there disproves that idea! He has discovered 'Black Jacks' (spinel), sapphires, rubies and diamonds. Our own search of the creek looked as though it might not reveal anything. The folks just upstream from us were however, having luck in their search.



Don't lose it!

Tired and hot we sat down in the stream for a cool down and I found a lovely blue sapphire about the size of my little fingernail. I have plans for something special with that gem!

Next day we toured the Minerama site. Outside the S.C were the tailgate sellers with samples of lesser quality while the more valuable rocks were housed indoors.



Outdoor vendors

Our Aussie trip was done and we returned to Tas. On the 25th of March, Mike, Jane, Grieg, Toni and I drove over to the ghost town of Adamsfield



Welcome to Adamsfield!

which was once a booming mining town. Osmiridium, the ore being mined, was, at one time, more valuable than gold. Our trip over the 4-wheel drive road uncovered a serpentine quarry that was a by-product of the search for gold.



Serpentine quarry

Later in the month Grieg, Jane, Toni and I drove over to Ulverstone located in the north of Tasmania to the Gemboree being held there. Tailgate vendors once again sold their less pricey offerings outside the building while the 'good' stuff was being sold indoors. It was a great daytrip!

In the remaining weeks I made several more trips back to the Tunnel Marshes and other sites in search of treasure. Some of the trips we tried have led to the finding of sapphires and topaz but of course these were made after our departure!

Aside from the wonderful rocks that we returned with (that's another story!), we came home with new found friendships and great memories of our trip down under.



A Tasmanian pretty

Editor's Note

Ken and Toni Palmblad split their time these days between their home on Quadra and the one here in town. Ken is a fixture at the shop on Fridays and is always willing to talk rocks, show off his latest projects and lend a hand to those in need. Ken is also our assistant Wagon Master.

NORTHERN BC and the YUKON

Photos and text by Don Dawson



On the road again!

This summer I spent 4 weeks exploring the Yukon and another week exploring northern BC. What a thrill it was to come face to face with names and places and events I had learned in school and then dreamed the dreams that only young boys can dream.



Tesslin Bridge

Names like Dawson City, the Klondike, Keno City and Keno Hill, the Silver Trail, the Copper Belt, Carcross, Carmacks, the Cinammon Strip, Mayo, Faro, Lake LaBarge, the Yukon River, the Liard River, the Stewart River, the Peel River, the Pelly River, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and many, many more.



Jade bear



Jade and rhodonite chess set

In our province, names like Atlin, Cassiar, Fort Nelson, Stewart, Hyder Alaska and lately, Jade City added to this list of famous names. The Alaska Highway, the Klondike



View across Atlin Lake

Highway, the Campbell Highway, and the relatively new Dempster Highway were the byways traveled. But my first destination was the Arctic Circle Kiosk, about 20 miles north of the Eagle Plains Hotel on the unpaved Dempster Highway. Driving to Glacier Creek, a few miles north of the Kiosk ensured that the ever shifting line had indeed been crossed. We beat up a few golf balls at the Kiosk in the rays of the midnight sun, and then returned to Eagle Plains to pick up our “Arctic Circle Crossing” certificates. This action removed one more item from my Bucket List.

The Yukon Gov. has numerous campsites in the Territory, all priced at \$12.00/night, including firewood. We purchased pre-paid tickets and just filled them out where we camped. The best deal in the Yukon is Faro, where the town has a campsite. Fully serviced sites, shower and wi-fi and firewood included, were \$18.00/day. We paid a high of \$1.45/liter for gasoline and that was at Eagle Plains, not bad for being the only gas station until Inuvik is reached. The highest price observed was \$1.75/liter and that was near the BC border.



Keno Hill; beware of old mine sites

The only downside of the trip was that it was taken too early in the season. The rivers were high and fast, hindering finding dry gravel bars and river fishing. The salmon runs had not started, either.



Jack London's cabin in Dawson City

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. The Yukon has to be the most beautiful place I have ever visited.

Editor's note

Don was a long time member before moving off to other Island areas. He explored many back roads and led us on many fieldtrips. He also took care of the shop and mentored me as a shop fore'man'. Don now resides down-Island.