



BUGLE



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

Editor: Gordon Burkholder

Volume 28
Copy 7
September 2017

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	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
Vice-President	Janice Boyes	250-337-8461
Past President	Kathy Young	250-285-3343
Secretary	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388
Treasurer	Dennis Cambrey	250-337-8949
Wagonmaster	Shane Mawhinney	250-285-3465
Assistant Wagonmaster(s)	<i>vacant</i>	
Show Chair	Pat Doyle	250-285-2377
Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Shop Maintenance	<i>vacant</i>	
Entertainment	<i>vacant</i>	250-285-2377
Publicity	Diane Cooper	250-830-0889
Bugle Editor	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
Non-Executive Positions		
Webpage Manager	Janet Burkholder	info@ripplerockgemand mineralclub.com
Showcase	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Slab Draw/Collection	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Coffee Break	Jack and Jan Boyes	250-337-8461
Basic Lapidary Instructors	Steve Cooley Gordon Burkholder	250-287-4388 250-923-1740

Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

Senior	Jan Boyes
Intermediate	Melissa Ticknor
Junior	<i>vacant</i>

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.

Gemboree

This edition of the “Bugle” has a copy of the Gemboree Report that I have sent around to attendees and various organization in the Province. I have not received a full accounting of expenses and income from the Gemboree and so I can only estimate what was made as profit from our endeavours. 50% of the money made as profit goes to support the Vancouver Island Zone Committee. The money is used to pay delegates a travel allowance and cover costs of doing business for the Zone.

On a personal note I would like to thank all of the many volunteers and my committee members for the great job they did for the Gemboree. It was a success and I received many compliments from the people who attended from other clubs.

Gordon Burkholder

Web Coordinator Comments

I continue to put up information about club happenings and events as well as information on items for sale. We get a lot of requests from ‘vendors’ offering things for sale so I hope you are checking the website on a regular basis. Put it in your bookmarked bar for easy access.

www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com

Janet Burkholder

Editor’s Notation

With the completion of the September edition of the ‘Bugle’ I am announcing that I will not continue as editor after this year but I can say that it has been fun being the editor. It was also a challenge to get the editions sent off while I was on the road during the past few winters but I enjoyed the work. It has been a pleasure to be your editor for the past few years.

Gordon Burkholder

What do you think

I want to get your thoughts on some topics of interest to Rock Hounds and Ripple Rock members. You can email your opinions to gdburk1953@gmail.com

QUESTION

Meetings can be pretty dry with discussions on business items and reports from the executive so, “What should our club be doing to liven up our meetings?”

MY OPINION

I would like to see members bring something to share with others. A sample of the work they are doing or a skill they have or something of interest to them. Ideally it would not just be a show and tell but get others asking questions and sharing their thoughts.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Ed Ritcey: Flat Lapping



Beautifully polished tiffany rock

Ed has been a member of the RRG&MC for 10 years. He began his experience, as most of us do, cutting and shaping stones into familiar cabochon shapes. Ed is a familiar sight at the shop where he still cuts a lot

of his rocks. After many years involved as a lapidarist and successful vendor at many venues here and in Alberta, Ed wanted to shift his talents to something a bit less physically demanding and so he began to flat lap stones for display. He likes that the machines do “all” the work. Ed’s process is quite simple, “Start with well-cut quality rocks and take care to clean all equipment well between each stage of the process and you’ll get good results.”



20" Lortone Flat Lapping Machine

Ed uses a Lortone 20" vibratory flat lapping machine and graded 220 grit for the initial stage of his work. He changes grit after 8 hours and inspects the rocks' progress. He is looking for areas that haven't been polished and can eyeball these before starting a second round. Sometimes he will score his rock with a lead pencil to gauge the effect of the polishing. If the lead has disappeared he knows it is working as it should.



Ed looks for areas that are not flat

Getting the right results may take 3 rounds of polishing with the graded 220 grit and Ed scrubs away any residual grit before recharging the tray for the next round of polishing.

When the rock is ready it is on to the next grade of grit. Ed feels like so many that you don't have to go beyond the 400 grit size before a good polish can be done but it still may involve more than 1 round of polishing with the graded 400 grit and again clean the table between rounds. Ed uses a dedicated tray for the final polishing rounds and he used tin oxide as his polishing material.



Dedicated polishing tray charged with tin oxide

Over the course of Ed's 3+ years lapping rocks he has picked up some neat tricks to help make each attempt a success. One of these is the use of tubing placed around the rock. This prevents rocks from bouncing too much in the tray and colliding with either the side of the tray or other rocks.



Protective tubing around rock

Ed likes what he is currently doing with his rocks and as he says “he has enough to last a while.”

GEMBOREE 2017

Vancouver Island Zone Gemboree

The 2017 Gemboree for the Vancouver Island Zone was held on the North Island at Cluxewe Resort from July 20 until the 23rd. There were 101 registered Rockhounds representing clubs from all 6 Island groups, 2 lower mainland clubs and a Kootenay club plus members from 3 American clubs (all from Arizona) and a couple from Europe to round things off. The participants ranged in age from 8 to 80.

The organizing committee, comprised of Janice Boyes, Shane Mawhinney, Kathy Young, Linda Henderson, Faye Thompson and myself, were all motivated in our jobs by the exemplary Gemboree held by the Cowichan club last year. Their organization and enthusiasm just filled us with a desire to continue on and build on that successful event.

We began our planning last September and decided upon a date and location first. Each of the committee members chose an activity to be in charge of and preparations began. I booked space at Cluxewe Resort and they were to accommodate our event providing us with a covered pavilion and tables as well as BBQs to assist us in providing for all of our expected guests. The schedule and itinerary were set up to provide rockhounds with a full, but hopefully not overloaded, 4 days' worth of activity.



Rockhound gathering at the Potluck dinner held on Friday evening under the 'Big Top

The first day was simply registration and a tailgate sale. Jan Boyes handled the registration and the tailgate was open to any and all.

Day 2 Started early with marshalling for the 3 field trips organized by our wagon master Shane Mawhinney. We had demonstrations organized by Beba Adams at 4 p.m. and a potluck supper at 6 under the 'big top'.



Beba demonstrating wire wrap techniques. Faye Thompson in the background showing beading methods.

The 3rd day also began early with the fieldtrips leaving the Resort at 8:30. People were glad to have seen what was collected from the previous day's trips and it was easier to decide where to head out on this day. There was a BBQ dinner organized by Kathy Young and assisted by a whole bunch of volunteers and held under the 'big top'. Fire rings kept everyone warm and there was a lot of friendly socializing afterwards.

Sunday started with the pancake breakfast that was organized by Linda Henderson. The coffee was hot and the cakes were flying off the griddles. Everyone got their fill! Organizing for the auction spearheaded by Faye Thompson, started right after the breakfast and the event was ready for previewing by noon. Bidding started at 1 p.m. and the final item was sold off by 2:15.

Our accountant gave us broad strokes as far as expenses and income and we feel it was a success netting the Zone around \$700 after expenses were covered and the profits split.

Field trip destinations were determined as being those in the area that would provide the most interest and accommodate a large number of rockhounds. The **Merry Widow** mine with its large array of minerals was an obvious choice. It didn't disappoint. Carrie Maire came away with the most spectacular find of magnetite and calcite with 0.75 cm garnets adorning the perimeter. But her find was not the only treasure taken away from the site.



Garnet on calcite



Carrie and her find



Sean Maire indicating 'blue' garnet

The second location was the **Colonial Creek area around Port Alice**. It had 3 stops in total. The creek itself yielded many interesting specimens of chert, conglomerates, and porphyries.

The marble dump site a few kilometers away had many people gathering a sample and several came away with 'gold' (pyrite) crystals attached to the marble. Quite unique and very exciting!

The final spot was just at the edge of the town site where we collected picture stone, marble, and other interesting specimens.



Collecting from the Colonial Creek bar



A Merry Widow group



A variety of interesting river rock



'Picture stone'

The 3rd location for the field trips was in the **Bonanza Lake** area around Telegraph Cove. It gave up the largest specimen of the week end, a piece of white marble for carving that came in at around 90 Kg. Large and small pieces of the Gordonite were collected from the Kokish River area just a few kilometers away.



This massive piece of Gordonite now adorns an attendee's yard.



A marble cave in the Bonanza Lake area

No matter the location, all participants came away with some great rocks! And many will have wonderful tales to tell. Young and old rockhounds were enthused by the treasures that they collected.

As an organizer I was very pleased with how the event unfolded and appreciative of all the work that went into making it a 'success'. The committee worked long and hard and can be proud of what they accomplished. We tried our best to make this a memorable event for all and I have to think that it we achieved that goal. I am looking forward to next year's event which is being hosted by the Victoria Club.

Gordon Burkholder

SPECIAL ADDITION

Collector's Sale

We have been in touch with a local collector who is 'getting rid' of his collection of lapidary material. Dale contacted us through the web page info@riplerockgemandmineralclub address and invited our help in getting the word out about his sale.

Dale began collecting as a youngster with his dad and so much of the material has age to it and that translates into 'quality' in most cases. He has jade from the Cassiar area that was harvested back when it was just opening up. His Rhodonite is from the mine on Salt Spring and is as pink and clean as you can possibly want and he has slabs and rough as well as blocks of jade.



Jan gets some of the history from Dale

Dale's not out to gouge rock enthusiasts but he want to get some value from his material so he is opening up his collection to the Ripple Rock Club in a members-only sale on Saturday, September 23. His material will once again be offered for sale the following week to all rock enthusiasts on the Island.



A tub full of rocks and slabs

The range of his collection is truly spectacular ranging from Chrysoprase to opal to petrified woods, jaspers, agate, geodes, soapstone and polished cabs of a large number of rock species. As well Dale will be selling of some equipment and accessories.



Jade, limb casts, and tiger-eye on one of the display tables

He has provided me with some sample material that will be at the September meeting and offered at the slab draw. Details of the sale including address and the time will be provided to club members on September 22nd and Zone contacts on September 29th .



Fire agate, Chrysoprase, and Lapis Lazuli