

Hatrockhound Gazette 2017

PO Box 1122, Hermiston, Oregon 97838



Meetings at 6:30 on the 2nd
Tuesday of each month
First Christian Church of
Hermiston:
775 West Highland
(go to back of church)

Officers:
President - Janet Judd
V. Pres. - Mike Filarski
Secretary - Judi Allison
Treasurer - Margaret Free

Newsletter/Website - Judi Allison, 1701 NW 11th St, Hermiston, OR 97838 541-720-4950



Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society is Affiliated with:

The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
And The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



AFMS Rockhounds "Code of Ethics"

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials

on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

HATROCKHOUND GAZETTE

November 2017

Annual “I Did It” Contest

Tuesday, November 14th, 6:30 pm

Enter once in each of three categories for the possibility of an awesome plaque and the honor of being the winner of your category. **Look for details below.**

Shannon & Gene are in charge of treats. . .

“I DID IT” CONTEST - IT’S FUN AND IT’S EASY.

WIN A PLAQUE FOR YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT.

- *CHOSE SOMETHING YOU FOUND, SOMETHING YOU BOUGHT AND/OR SOMETHING YOU MADE IN THE LAST YEAR.*
- *ENTER ONE, TWO OR ALL THREE CATEGORIES.*
- *BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE MEETING AND TELL ABOUT THEM*
- *MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON THE BEST ITEM IN EACH OF THE CATEGORIES.*



Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Guests at our meeting included Roy, Patti and Wende Frazier and Kathy and Dom Calvert. Welcome.

General Business: Judi showed the membership the three vests she had made. She let everyone know they could order one of a different size for \$10 each. Doug Gill bought one, so there are two available in a larger size. Joe and Tatyana each ordered different sizes.

Bill Shipp brought in the suitcase that housed the lending library that had been set up by a former member. Mike reintroduced it purpose. Don Crumley took some old discs home to see if there was any pictures on them. If so, he will put them on a DVD. We stored it in the back room where our supplies are, if anyone wants to look at anything. . .there are a number of old college geology books.

Jane Ginther asked if the club had any “club owned” equipment. Mike pointed out there are possibly two small tumblers that could be borrowed. Judi suggested that the newsletter could include a list of those willing to help others with a particular aspect of the hobby, such as wire wrapping, cabbing, etc. There was such a list at one time, but was discontinued.

Storage Trailer: Mike stated that from his research, trailers seem to be running from \$3000 to 5000. He asked if anyone on the search committee checked about the possibility of a loan for a new one and how that would work. Judi added that Irish Howard has a buyer’s card that gives her access to various sales around the area. If she had approval to commit up to a specific amount, perhaps she could buy one at an auction. Jayson Steele passed on the name of the website, ironplanet.com and a possible avenue for a trailer. The search will continue.

Treasurer's Report: We paid out \$50 to the Corporate Division for non-profit dues and \$60 to reimburse Mike for some business cards he paid for. We took in \$29 from Elmer's raffle and a \$25 donation from a non-member. We also gained \$495 from the yard sale. Thanks to those who contributed.

Nominations and Elections: After checking with the nominating committee and finding that Doug Gill was willing to run for President, Mike called for nominations from the floor. Laura Tiffany volunteered to put her hat in the ring. With that, Jane Ginther moved and Stan Sloane seconded that nominations be closed. With a show of hands from the membership, Doug Gill received the majority of the votes in favor. He will now take over the position of President.

The second position to be filled was that of Treasurer. Laura Tiffany, Jane Ginther and Laurie Ellis each volunteered to have their names entered in the candidate pool. With no more nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. With a vote by show of hands, Laura Tiffany won the contest with a majority vote. She will serve as our Treasurer.

The third position of Member at Large could be filled by appointment. With Judi's suggestion of Bill Shipp and his agreement to take the position, our elections and appointments were completed. Thanks to all who were willing to take on a responsibility.

November Program: We will again have the "I Did It" Contest. There are three categories: I Made It, I Bought It and I Found It. You may enter all three or one or two. Items must be made, found or purchased between the middle of November, 2016 and now. The winner in each category, chosen by member vote, will receive a plaque.

Show and Tell:

Randy brought along material he found out of Weiser, Idaho across from Farewell Bend. It appeared to be quartz or a calcite of some sort. He said there was a lot just lying around and he thought it might make a good field trip in the spring or early summer.

Jayson shared a box of rocks he had since he was "a little kid". There were a number of quartz crystals and pyrite.

Bill displayed a couple of Brazilian Agates a friend had given him quite some time ago. They are as yet uncut.

Judi brought polished agate slab Elmer had done that she bought at the Lakeside auction.

Don offered a piece of rhyolite (wonderstone) he had found along highway 50 near Fallon, Nevada seventeen years ago.

Sophia brought a rock from "my Grandma's" painted green. (We later found out it was probably supposed to go into the rock costume contest.)

Mike showed off his version of a "club Rock" he had decoupage a business card on a river rock and planned to put it out for someone to find. He figured he would also make some more.

Door Prizes: Sophia, Laurie and Anita; who passed hers on to Ty, were the winners this evening.

Program: We had eleven entries in our contest. Lettie's "Evil Easter Bunny" made from a geode, carnelian eyes, knapped ears and a cotton tail won first prize. Second went to Stella's one eyed creation "One Eyed One Horned Flying Purple People Eater". The best story which included "Blobby the Green Blob" went to Tatyana. Thanks to everyone for making it a fun night.

Executive meeting: Monday, October 23rd at Judi's at 6:30 pm.

NOVEMBER MEETING: 6:30 pm, November 14th

Program: "I Did It" Contest

WEBSITE: jall23.wix.com/hatrockhounds



Hatrockhounds Executive Minutes

Monday, October 23, 2017

Present: Judi Allison, Mike Filarski, Laura Tiffany, Doug Gill, Bill Shipp

- ✓ **Programs**– We started the evening discussing ideas for our 2018 programs. Using some information from last year’s questionnaire and brainstorming, we came up with enough possibilities to cover the year. We also talked about various field trips and will include 3-4 in our list of activities. Judi will type those up and have them available either for the November meeting or December Christmas party.
- ✓ **Storage** – Judi paid the bill through December. We discussed Irish Howard’s offer to look at buying a trailer through the auctions and decided it would be too difficult to actually know what we were purchasing prior to the sale, so we opted to forego that method. Jim Bryant let us know about an enclosed trailer he would be willing to sell. Mike, Doug and Gill will coordinate to go look at it and consider if it would be a viable option.
- ✓ We also discussed the fact that there are items in the storage unit which are extraneous. We need to make decisions on what is good to keep and what can be dispensed with. We have a number of 12x12 black boxes that have been used in previous years for display of smaller items. We talked about the possibility of having those for Junior display or possibly selling them at an auction. Laura offered a storage area where we could keep the buckets of rocks out of the weather. The plan is not to add them to our storage unit. Doug also spoke to the need to organize the liners in a different manner. Keeping them with their respective cases would be ideal, but they may get damaged that way. We again discussed the idea of building a small storage box with wheels for easy moving.
- ✓ **November Meeting** – We will have our annual “I Did It” Contest. Judi has already ordered the plaques and will prepare the ballots and other necessary items for the contest. Lancasters and Naomi Rogers and Shelley Kennick are in charge of treats. (Shelley and Naomi are unable.)
- ✓ **Christmas Party** – We decided the club will provide both vegetarian and meat lasagnas as well as punch, coffee and bottled water. Judi will check with the church to see about the possibility of using the ovens to heat the lasagna. If we can’t or the ovens don’t work, as Bill suggested might be the case, we will use the portable roasters. We will have a sign up for side dishes, main dishes, salads and desserts at the November meeting. We will do a gift exchange for those who wish to partake. The value should be no more than \$10 and related to the rockhounding hobby. If it is specifically for a man or woman, please mark that on the outside. If you wish to sign who the gift is from, please put it on the inside, as we will be doing a game that doesn’t need a name. We will ask Randy if he is willing to act as a caller for our rock Bingo again this year. The club will furnish rocks, but if you also have some you would like to donate, please bring them along.
- ✓ **Show** – We had some general discussion about the show and the need to rewrite some of the guidelines. There are many newer members who have not seen any guidance on how to run the silent auction, working at the Junior table or even helping at the front desk. Some of the things mentioned that need to be clarified are the number of items on the sale table at once; the need for one person to be in charge of the till, and general written guidelines for the volunteers. Mike thinks he has something on the silent auction and will rework it. Judi and Laura can discuss the Juniors and set down some guidelines.
- ✓ **Miscellaneous** – Dues are payable at this time for the 2018 year. Your dues cover the entire year - \$12 for individuals, \$20 for couples and \$25 for entire families. We also discussed the fact that the Treasury needs to include a ledger for the purpose of our 401c3 non-profit status.
- ✓ **November Program- “I Did It” Contest, Tuesday, November 14th, 5:30 pm.**
- ✓ Secretary, Judi Allison



Juniors Get Creative

On October 29th, the Junior members got together to decorate and create a new look to the two beanbag



panels donated to the club by Jerry and Chris Sorensen. They worked diligently to add their unique abstract palate to the pieces. We then added a few coats of clear acrylic, in hopes that they will be preserved and ready for use in years to come. This endeavor earns them credit toward volunteerism.

Just a Reminder

- ❖ Our Annual Christmas Party will be in December on our regular meeting night-December 12th. We will start at 6:00 pm and have a pot luck dinner with the club furnishing lasagna, punch, water and coffee. There will be a sign up for side dishes, main dishes, salads and desserts at the November meeting.
- ❖ We will do a gift exchange for those who wish to partake. The value should be no more than \$10 and related to the rockhounding hobby. If it is specifically for a man or woman, please mark that on the outside. If you wish to sign who the gift is from, please put it on the inside, as we will be doing a game that doesn't need a name.
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Diatomaceous Earth



Diatomaceous earth, also known as **D.E.**, **diatomite**, or **kieselgur/kieselguhr**, is a naturally occurring, soft, siliceous sedimentary rock that is easily crumbled into a fine white to off-white powder. It has a particle size ranging from less than 3 micrometres to more than 1 millimetre, but typically 10 to 200 micrometres. Depending on the granularity, this powder can have an abrasive feel, similar to pumice powder, and has a low density as a result of its high porosity. The typical chemical composition of oven-dried diatomaceous earth is 80 to 90% silica, with 2 to 4% alumina (attributed mostly to clay minerals) and 0.5 to 2% iron oxide.

Diatomaceous earth consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled protist (chrysophytes). It is used as a filtration aid, mild abrasive in products including metal polishes and toothpaste, mechanical insecticide, absorbent for liquids, matting agent for coatings, reinforcing filler in plastics and rubber, anti-block in plastic films, porous support for chemical

catalysts, cat litter, activator in blood clotting studies, a stabilizing component of dynamite, and a thermal insulator.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Opal from the Diatomaceous Earth Pits in Eastern Washington

Here is a great article from the Kenniwick Lakeside rock club about the opal from the Vantage/George Washington area back in 2009:

The opal is found as waste material in a diatomaceous earth mine east of the town of Vantage, Wa. The diatomaceous earth (DE) mine lies in an old ancient lake bed, located in the Frenchman's Hills. The mining operation is a series of open pits that removes the DE, while separating out the opal and basalt.

Diatomaceous earth has many uses. The majority of the mined DE is used for filter media in the wine making industry. I've read where DE is used for rock tumble media, during the rough grind process. DE is also used as an insecticide, where the sharp edges of the silica takes care of unwanted slugs and bugs. It's also used as an optical grade polish.

The opal, called potch or common opal, shows up in many different colors and sizes. Opal is found naturally in seams in the DE, with occasional nodules within the diatom beds. I've seen opal in colors ranging from blue, purple, green, orange, red, and white, but most of the opal is a pale green or brown color. Larger pieces of opal can be found, up to 6 feet long, 4 feet wide and 3 feet thick.

I've heard where collectors have found petrified wood from this location. Other than a small limb, I have never seen a petrified tree from this location. The formation of the layers in the opal, similar to layers in an onion, have been mistaken for the growth rings a tree. There are some unconfirmed reports of freshwater coral being found. Also, there was some information at one time, from the miners that precious opal was found in a lime green jelly opal.

A prized find is the healed brecciated opal that shows small checkered patterns and the colorful jelly opals. Most of the opal is crazed, or fractured, but some solid pieces can be found. Opal has a tendency to fracture when it loses its water after being unearthed. It's common to bring some of this opal home only to find it as a pile of rubble after it crazed over time.

The solid pieces make great lapidary material. I've made many spheres and seen some very nice cabochons, bookends, and clocks made by club members. The large multi-colored pieces make great conversation pieces as yard rock.

There are times when you do not want to visit the mine, when the wind blows or when it rains. Wind will stir up the DE into a cloud of white dust and rain will make the roads into a greasy, slick muck and chances are you will get stuck.

Always wear safety glasses and gloves while working around the sharp opal, And watch for the typical biological hazards; snakes, spiders and scorpions. Always respect the mine's no trespassing signs, call to get permission prior to going. Be safe and do not dig in the vertical walls of the pit. There are plenty of piles of opal to collect from. Most of our best opal has come from these piles.

The mine only allows collecting when they are not working in the area, usually Sunday and sometimes Saturday. We have been collecting opal from the mine for over 20 years and still look forward to visiting the mine because the miners are continually removing new seams of opal. If we don't get up there and collect it, they (the mine) will bury it back into the ground during the reclaim process.

Also, if you're in the area, stop by the Ginko Petrified Forest State Park and interpretive center at Vantage for a good look at the petrified wood that's found in the area. Kevin, Tina, and Kara Newcomb

Via Hardrock News, November 2013

(This information and article came about because I gave the Juniors slabs of the material shown above. This came from an estate collection of Floyd George, longtime member of the Lakeside Club. I am not certain if one can still collect there, but I can probably find out if folks are interested in the possibility of a field trip there.

Judi)

