

# HATROCKHOUND GAZETTE

## September 2016

**MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30 pm**

### *Flintknapping FUNDamentals*

*Lakeside members, Rick Tobin and friends will give an overview of their knapping techniques. They may even let you try your hand.*

*(Laura Tiffany and Laurie Ellis are in charge of the treats.)*

*Come join us for some good times and good company.*

### **Picnic a Success- We Missed You**



Although we only had around twenty people to partake of our day on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, it appeared everyone had a good time. After some great food we had two rounds of silent auction, then a rousing time playing rock BINGO. The party didn't break up until around four and everyone was excited to go home with lots of rock. Thanks to Jerry Senn from the Lakeside Club and Roy Kessell and our own members for donations to make our activities more enticing. Thanks to everyone for all the great food and Margaret Free for making sure we had chicken, water and many other

goodies. And thanks to Randy Free for being the set-up man for the auction as well as the BINGO dude. (With the vocal assistance of Lisa Ginther.)



*(Due to a variety of circumstances, we did not have an executive meeting as planned. So we will be functioning this month "flying by the seat of our pants"). Anyone with any ideas wishing to help us "fly" is welcome to do so.*

## NFMS Junior Achievement Award



President, Janet Judd-Fahey presented our own Alexander Lopez with the Northwest Federation Junior Achievement Award he earned at the NFMS Show in Albany Oregon. In order to earn this award, Alex had to submit a short essay detailing, not only rockhounding activities, but other activities around home

and within his community that show the accomplishments he made during the 2015 year. Not only did Alex receive a certificate; he also received a cash award. Any Junior member in good standing can put in for this award, so consider the idea, and you could be a winner too. Congratulations, Alex! We are proud of you!



### FLINTKNAPPING

**Knapping** is the shaping of flint, chert, obsidian or other conchoidal fracturing stone through the process of lithic reduction to manufacture stone tools, strikers for flintlock firearms, or to produce flat-faced stones for building or facing walls, and flushwork decoration. The original Germanic term "knopp" meant strike, shape, or work, so it could theoretically have referred equally well to making a statue or dice. Modern usage is more specific, referring almost exclusively to the hand-tool pressure-flaking process.

Flintknapping or knapping is done in a variety of ways depending on the purpose of the final product. For stone tools and flintlock strikers, chert is worked using a fabricator such as a hammerstone to remove lithic flakes from a nucleus or core of tool stone. Stone tools can then be further refined using wood, bone, and antler tools to perform pressure flaking.

For building work a hammer or pick is used to split chert nodules supported on the lap. Often the chert nodule will be split in half to create two cherts with a flat circular face for use in walls constructed of lime. More sophisticated knapping is employed to produce almost perfect cubes which are used as bricks.

There are many different methods of shaping stone into useful tools. Early knappers could have used simple hammers made of wood or antler to shape stone tools. The factors that contribute to the knapping results are varied, but the EPA (exterior platform angle) indeed influences many attributes, such as length, thickness and termination of flakes.

*Hard hammer* techniques are used to remove large flakes of stone. Early knappers and hobbyists replicating their methods often use cobbles of very hard stone, such as quartzite. This technique can be used by flintknappers to remove broad flakes that can be made into smaller tools. This method of manufacture is believed to have been used to make some of the earliest stone tools ever found, some of which date from over 2 million years ago.

*Soft hammer* techniques are more precise than hard hammer methods of shaping stone. Soft hammer techniques allow a knapper to shape a stone into many different kinds of cutting, scraping, and projectile tools. These "soft hammer" techniques also produce longer, thinner flakes, potentially allowing for material conservation or a lighter lithic tool kit to be carried by mobile societies.

*Pressure flaking* involves removing narrow flakes along the edge of a stone tool. This technique is often used to do detailed thinning and shaping of a stone tool. Pressure flaking involves putting a large amount of force across a region on the edge of the tool and (hopefully) causing a narrow flake to come off of the stone. Modern hobbyists often use pressure flaking tools with a copper or brass tip, but early knappers could have used antler tines or a pointed wooden punch; traditionalist knappers still use antler tines and copper-tipped tools. The major advantage of using soft metals rather than wood or bone is that the metal punches wear down less and are less likely to break under pressure.

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