



BUGLE



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

Editor: Gordon Burkholder
Format Design: Janet Burkholder

Volume 28
Copy 1
January 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	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
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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

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.

Election Postponed, Again!

Club Elections have been put off once again; this time due to weather and low voter turn-out. Let's make sure we get out to the January meeting to elect the executive.

Executive Notices

The snow broke a few large branches off the tree beside our **storage shed** and broke the roof. It will be tarped until the summer when it will be fixed or replaced.

The water to the shop has thawed out. The new saw is at York Machine Works and we hope the door is wide enough to be able to bring it in (otherwise we will need a carpenter as well as several strong backs).

Beba is asking for ideas, and a helper, for making this year's club showcase.

Entertainment for Friday's meeting will be identifying rocks and minerals. December's Bugle had a flow chart and a list of the simple steps and tools to use to classify rocks, the first step to identifying that 'unknown' rock. If you have a puzzler, bring it to the meeting.

Wagon Master's Report

While there is nothing new about planned trips reported from Shane he did deal with a member of the Victoria Club who thought we might be going to his claim at Grand Forks. Turns out the claims are side by side and we did not jump his claim.

Shane also reported that after leaving a sample of his fluorite in 'rust out' for an extended period it has grown some very interesting blue crystals. Hmmm...

Gemboree Report

I am not the worrying kind but there aren't a lot of preregistrations to report so I will be putting more effort into getting registrants for our Gemboree

scheduled for July up at the Cluxewe Resort just 8 Km north of Port McNeill. If you can spread the word, I'd appreciate it.

Gord Burkholder –organizer

Web site News

We got an interesting email from someone who reads our web page and resides in the UK. He wondered if the Ken Palmblad noted as Assistant Wagonmaster was the same one who, back in the 70's, bought a car from him and went over to some rock concert on the Isle of Wight? We passed this inquiry on to Ken and sure enough he is the fellow. Reconnections have begun.

Quoted by *Anon*

The pen is mightier than the sword and easier to write with.

Editor's Note

I've been on the road for two months now and have settled into a beach front spot just a few kilometers north of San Felipe. I got out onto the desert and found some interesting samples. I hope the cold and snowy weather at home is to your liking. I'm liking not being in it!

Gordon Burkholder

Quotable Quote They're unfriendly, which is fortunate, really. They'd be difficult to like.

-Avon

MERRY WIDOW MINE

The Merry Widow mine site has become one of our favourite spots for rock hounding. Not because it is easy to get to, or even close by, but because of the wide variety of material that can be found within its boundaries.

The trip off the highway to the mine takes about 1.5 hours and is about a 50 Km drive. First off you have to drive up past Port McNeill on the Island

highway. Then you turn your vehicle westward (kind of) along the Keogh Main logging road which wanders primarily southeast for many kilometers. It is good to use the BC Backroads map book from this point. The road is easily accessible to all vehicles up to the turn-off to the mine. There is parking among the glens and alders at the start to the mine access road. From this point on a good 4x4 with high clearance is necessary.



Roadside offerings

The road up to the mine should not be overlooked as a collecting area as it has nice marble, some petrified coral, and interesting limestones along its edges. Keep your eyes open and stop when you see something of interest. Winding your way up the steep incline to the top of the mountain takes less time than you might think but it can feel like a long time. At one point, about 1 km from the top there is a small road that goes off and down to the right. At the bottom of this trail there is a stream that runs out of the adit which goes back into the mountain for several hundred meters. The marble here is quite colourful and washed smooth by the stream.



Tailings pile



More pickings

There were a good many railroad spikes left here and there may yet be a few scraps from the tracks which carried ore out of the adit to the dump. It is a nice side trip at the very least as it offers a different view of the main mine site above.



Mining debris

Continuing on to the top of the mountain take the right road past the large pit and park at one of the many open spots found here. This is where the fun begins. There are many tailings mounds to explore in all directions. The site which oversees the large and deep pit has peacock ore and garnet among the rocks.



Small adit

Going down to the bottom of the pit reveals breccia and more marbles. The tailings piles have quartz crystal, calcite, galena, and a wide range of minerals waiting to be discovered. Check out as many as possible but do so carefully. A careless step up here is a serious thing!



The view from up there

The Merry Widow will surely be one of the sites we'll visit during the Gemboree this coming July. Make sure you've registered and reserved a camp site in time for this great trip.

Coming next month: The Bonanza Lake collecting area.

Quotable Quote:

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.

-Galileo Galilei

ROCK STORY

Stone Soup

A short story

Some travelers come to a village, carrying nothing more than an empty cooking pot. Upon their arrival, the villagers are unwilling to share any of their food stores with the hungry travelers. Then the travelers go to a stream and fill the pot with water, drop a large stone in it, and place it over a fire. One of the villagers becomes curious and asks what they are doing. The travelers answer that they are making "stone soup", which tastes wonderful, although it still needs a little bit of garnish to improve the flavor, which they are missing. The villager does not mind parting with a few carrots to help them out, so that gets added to the soup. Another villager

walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the travelers again mention their stone soup which has not reached its full potential yet. The villager hands them a little bit of seasoning to help them out. More and more villagers walk by, each adding another ingredient. Finally, the stone (being inedible) is removed from the pot, and a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by all. Although the travelers have thus tricked the villagers into sharing their food with them, they have successfully transformed it into a tasty and nutritious meal which they share with the donors.



Stone Soup is an old folk story in which hungry strangers manipulate the local people of a town into sharing their food. In varying traditions, the stone has been replaced with other common inedible objects, and therefore the fable is also known as **axe soup**, **button soup**, **nail soup**, and **wood soup**.