

# ALBERTA ROCKHOUND NEWS



Volume 49 No. 2

Publication of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs



May, 2017



## President's Message

By Ron Biel

Greetings from the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs (AFRC). This edition of the Rockhound News(ARN) comes to you after the annual meeting of the rock clubs which was held in Diamond City near Lethbridge, on the May long weekend.

I would like to thank the Southern Alberta Rockhounds Association for planning and hosting this event. A lot of work goes into organizing May Daze and they pulled it off without a hitch! The weather was perfect as well, something which is hard to predict in spring time. The wind we hear about in southern Alberta must have gone somewhere else for the weekend. Great job Lethbridge! The Annual General Meeting for the AFRC was also held during May Daze. Several things came up at the meeting that we should all think about. First, our secretary for the AFRC, Valarie, has committed to do other interesting things in other parts of the country and cannot fulfill her duties as secretary so we need to find a new secretary. Stacy Glaubitz from the Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club has agreed to be the secretary until our executive elections in November. So we are asking if anyone would like to put their name forward to become the next secretary for the AFRC. All club members in Alberta should hear about this which brings me to the next point.

At the AGM there was a discussion on the distribution of the ARN. All members are supposed to receive a copy, free, through their respective club secretaries via email or a printed copy brought to club meetings. This has not been happening as expected. The ARN is sent by email by Ed and Pauline Zeschuk, long term (16 years and counting!) editors, to each club secretary who will then forward a copy to each club member. Some club members do not have email so the club secretary will also print a copy to bring to the club house. Sounds simple and easy to do, right? Wrong! How could it go wrong? Well I am also a club secretary and I must admit I procrastinate and my computer hid all my email contacts somewhere! So things can go awry. Hopefully the bugs are worked out so all of you can read this.

There are more things in the AGM minutes which you can read about in the following pages. When you are out rock hounding this summer take pictures and write a story for all of us to read about in the next ARN. Many clubs are planning day trips for the summer so take a copy of the ARN along and take a picture of it with you, on a mountain top or some other great destination! Actually I doubt this would ever happen. Enjoy your summer!

## **ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS**

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## **MEMBER CLUBS AND SECRETARIES**

*Calgary Facetors Guild:* Dave Biro Box 395 Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0 (403) 885 4653

*Calgary CRLC:* Shelley Gibbins 2406-26A Street SW Calgary, AB T3E 2C5

*Edmonton Tumblewood:* Fiona Jakielaszek 9511-97 Street Morinville, AB T8R 1H4 780 439-3713

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*Lacombe Lapidary Club:* Ron Biel RR.4 Lacombe, AB T4L 2N4 (403) 782-4769 ronbiel@platinum.ca

*Medicine Hat Rock & Gem:* Kiwanis Centre, 826-11 St. S.E. Medicine Hat, AB (403) 527-0068

*Southern Alberta Rockhounds:* Kendra Grams 2106-12 Ave. N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 1S1

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS**

1. To promote and encourage the study, cutting, polishing and engraving of gemstones and rocks and other geological materials and lapidary work as a hobby other than for the purpose of trade, industry or business.
2. To encourage the exploration of Alberta for lapidary materials, and to promote and create a greater interest in Alberta finished and unfinished rocks and minerals.
3. To encourage and promote the close association with, and exchange of information between rock hobbyists and lapidary groups to stimulate interest in and disseminate knowledge about mineralogy and earth sciences.
4. The Alberta Federation sponsors a website which its members may use to promote the activities and events of their club.
5. The operations of the Alberta Federation are to be mainly carried out in the Province of Alberta, under the Canadian Rockhound Code of Ethics.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS is a member of THE GEM AND MINERAL FEDERATION OF CANADA. Each club pays their members dues to the AFRC Treasurer by February 1<sup>st</sup> and each paid up member is entitled to 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Liability Insurance which covers events such as field trips, rock and gem shows, and other organized events.



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This is your magazine. We need articles & suggestions. Send submissions anytime. If possible, send your article about two weeks before publication date to get them into the current month's publication. Otherwise the article will be included in the next publication.

**COLLECTING ROCKS**

Submitted by Marilyn Brees  
from the Medicine Hat Club

I THINK THAT THERE SHALL NEVER BE  
AN IGNORAMUS JUST LIKE ME.  
WHO ROAMS THE HILLS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.  
TO PICK UP ROCKS THAT DO NOT PAY.  
FOR THERE'S ONE THING I'VE BEEN TOLD.  
I TAKE THE ROCKS AND LEAVE THE GOLD.  
O'ER DESERTS WILD OR MOUNTAINS BLUE  
I SEARCH FOR ROCKS OF VARIED HUE.  
A HUNDRED POUNDS OR MORE I PACK.  
WITH BLISTERED FEET AND ACHING BACK.  
AND AFTER THIS IS SAID AND DONE  
I CANNOT NAME A SINGLE ONE.  
I PICK UP ROCKS WHERE E'RE I GO  
THE REASON WHY I DO NOT KNOW.  
FOR ROCKS ARE FOUND BY FOOLS LIKE ME.  
WHERE GOD INTENDED THEM TO BE

**Have You Ever Wondered About .....**

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
3. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
4. A diplomat is someone who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip.
5. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
6. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
7. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
8. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
9. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
10. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.
11. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
12. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

## **ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Diamond City, AB Sunday May 21, 2017** Minutes taken by Leola Grams.

The Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs Annual General Meeting was held at the Diamond City Community Hall in Diamond City, AB Sunday May 21, 2017. Meeting called to order at 9:15 am.

**1. INTRODUCTION** of the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association President Kendra Grams. Kendra's address included a thanks to all of those in attendance, a thank you to all the volunteers and helpers and a thank you to all those who donated to make the weekend a success.

**2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** President Ron Biel thanked the host club, SARHA for hosting this year's event and thanked all participants that came from all different areas of the province for this weekend. He challenged everyone to see what they could make with their picked items from the weekend.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA:** It was noted that three items would be added to the agenda. A proposed date change for May Daze, A replacement for current AFRC Secretary Val Harty and an offer of display cases by the Medicine Hat Club.

Pauline Zeschuk moved that the amended agenda be accepted. Motion carried.

**4. ROLL CALL:** Clubs present were the Calgary Faceters Guild, Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club, Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Guild, Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club, Southern AB Rock-hounds Association, Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club.

**5. MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Was observed in memory of John Hammer, Nester Bagan and Ralph Jahraus.

**6. THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2016 MEETING:** were available at the meeting.

Required changes to item 9.3

should read: abbreviation for Edmonton Club should read ETLC not ETWC, abbreviation for Lethbridge Club should read SARHA not SARA, correction that Orest Dorosh no longer a delegate for the Lethbridge Club, Lacombe Club delegates of Doug Schatz, Dave Biro and Ron Biel added and delegates for Medicine Hat Club John and Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky and Lavern and Irene Novlan added.

Ed Zeschuk motioned that the corrections be noted. Motion carried.

**7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Lavern Novlan offered up some information about how to start a new club. Noted that the information is available on the internet but had some hard copies of the information available if required.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

### **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

9.1 Treasurer's Report- John Cherwonogrodzky. A summary of finances was given to each attendee with hard copies of the full report for each of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

A discussion was held with regard to the recent changes to the educational / guest speaker grant as it was noted on page 10 of the report.

There were several motions required by John Cherwonogrodsky that pertained to information in the financial report:

a) that the audit be approved for as is required to be submitted with the upcoming annual return. Motion made by Dave Biro, Seconded by Irene Novlan and approved.

b) that to comply with section 47 of the AFRC bylaws that Maureen and John Dowler be appointed for auditors for the January 1- to December 31, 2017 term. Motion from Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky, Seconded by Kendra Grams and carried.

c) that AFRC membership dues for family, adult and student remain at \$5.00, \$4.50 and \$4.00 respectively. Motion put forth by Ed Zeschuk, seconded by Maureen Dowler and carried. an addendum to the membership motion was added. It was noted we also have associate memberships. It was motioned by Pauline Zeschuk that these also remain the same, seconded by Lavern Novlan and carried.

d) motion to comply with section 28 of the AFRC bylaws that the list of directors be updated and approved for upcoming annual return to Alberta Registries. Updates included: corrections to Lacombe listing as should be Dave Biro, Ron Biel and Doug Schatz and correction to Lethbridge listing as Orest Dorosh no longer representing. It was motioned by Lavern Novlan, seconded by Pauline Zeschuk and carried.

9.2 AFRC Travelling library. Medicine Hat is requesting use of same. Kendra Grams motioned that the library be transferred to Medicine Hat Club. Seconded by Lavern Novlan and carried.

9.3 AFRC Delegates. All issues were addressed under 9.1 section d. No further discussion required.

9.4 GMFC report. Brett Jensen indicates that the conference call meeting is set to occur on Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder that 2017 Show will be Sept 22-24 in Prince Albert.

GMFC looking for a club to host the 2018 show and will get clarification on whether the GMFC expects a cut of any of the profits for the show it attaches its name to.

9.5 ARN Newsletter report. Ed Zeschuk has indicated that he is hearing that some members are not getting their copies. A new distribution system is now in place and each club needs to make sure to email to their members.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS.**

10.1 May Daze 2018. Calgary Club will be hosting 2018. They have just put an organizational structure and place and further information should follow.

10.2 May Daze 2019. Medicine Hat Club has confirmed hosting. It will be held at 7 Persons. Further info to follow.

10.3 May Daze 2020. Host Club still to be determined.

10.4 A discussion was held about the possibility of changing the date of May Daze from the May long weekend to the weekend just after. This has been bounced back to the club level to do a survey of the issue.

10.5 Val Harty has indicated she cannot execute her duties as current AFRC secretary. Leola Grams has nominated Stacy Glaubitz as secretary for the remainder of the 2017 term. Seconded by Lavern Novlan and carried.

10.6 The Medicine Hat Club still has an excess of showcases available. They are offering them for \$10.00 each to private members and free to another club or good cause (like a school).

### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS / MISCELLANY

11.1 Medicine Hat Club tailgate is set for August. Further details to follow.

11.2 Lethbridge tailgate tentatively set for Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. Same Peavy Mart location.

11.3 There is also a commercial show being held in Lethbridge June 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> at the Exhibition Grounds.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

### May Daze 2017

By Kendra Grams

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual May Daze, hosted by the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds and held at the Diamond City Community has come and gone. Phew, we made it!

I can tell you there were a few of us who had elevated stress levels in the weeks and months prior to this event. Have we covered everything? What have we forgotten? Do we have a backup plan? Do we have enough volunteers? Display cases! Ugh! We need display cases! These were just a few thoughts that went through our minds as we prepared to host our fellow rock enthusiasts.

As it turned out everything came together without a hitch...okay, maybe there was a small hitch...or two, but nothing we couldn't troubleshoot on the fly. The rockhounding gods were smiling down upon us. We had wonderful weather pretty much the entire weekend and with some creative parking there was enough room for our out-of-town guests.



A BBQ was held on Friday night with accordion entertainment to eat by and view the auction items.

There were 7 show cases displaying members talents.



For those who stayed behind, they were able to take in the demonstrations that took place in the afternoon. These included faceting, hosted by Judy Jensen and Dave Biro; wire wrapping, hosted by Barb Black and Joyce Joevenazzo; soapstone carving, hosted by Bert Huipen; and last but not least, knife making, hosted by Randy Kiemele. There was even a little excitement when the RCMP showed up! Not too worry; it was just Sonya's husband trying to figure out where all his money goes!



Wire Wrapping



Knife Making



The two facetors, Judy Jensen and Dave Biro spent most of Saturday afternoon showing interested people the fine art of faceting.

There was enough free time available on the Saturday afternoon for a group of ladies to gather and discuss the nice things about May Daze. You get to meet with friends again, talk about the wonderful field trips and enjoy the excitement and good food the entire weekend. And then the talk turns to "I hope we don't take too much lapidary stuff home this year again because the house and garage is full"!





The men (and Irene) also thought they should gather and talk about what they plan to buy at the auction, what they hope they will get for their birthday and then the talk turns to comparing who has the most lapidary material in their basement, their garage and even in the back yard! The assumption was that the one with the most is the winner.

Ray Doucette celebrated his 75th birthday.  
 Congratulations Ray.



The field trip on Saturday to the Crowsnest area, hosted by Brett Jensen, was resoundingly popular; it so popular in fact, that I don't think poor Henry Komadowski had much to do that morning. He was our host for the shorter field trip to that 'other' place. I didn't hear any complaints afterwards so I am going to confidently say that everyone found something. The rockhounds returned late Saturday afternoon with Black Melanite Garnet, Blairmorite, Green Dragon (Chloritized Pillow Basalt), Quail Egg (Chloritized Diorite), Amygdloridal Basalt) Plagioclase Porphyry, and various color Quartzite. A very successful field trip!



Pot Luck Food table

Saturday evening, about 5:15 pm the pot luck food was being brought in and set on the table. A count was made of the signed in people at 81 but some had not signed so the final number was guessed at 100 attendees. This was a great turn-out for May Daze 2017!

Through out the evening draws were made for many great prizes which were contributed by various club people and surrounding businesses.

One of the highlights of May Daze is the Saturday evening auction and this year was no exception. There was a tremendous amount of lapidary material and equipment. Many of the buyers went home with enough material to spend all next winter cutting and polishing!



On Sunday the rockhounds enjoyed a great AFRC complimentary breakfast. Right after breakfast the AGM (Annual General Meeting) started promptly at 9:15 am. Ron Biel and executive did a masterful job of manoeuvring through this year's agenda items. Minutes of the proceedings can be read elsewhere in this newsletter.

Everyone was very attentive to Ron Biel's efficient handling of the meeting.



After the meeting the chairs and tables were put away and the tailgating started. Since the weather was so nice all selling was done outside.



Tailgating at its finest. There was a very good variety of material available.

By 2 pm on Sunday some rockhounds started to pack and head home. There was a great feeling of once again May Daze was a big success.

My sincere thanks and gratitude go to out to Cherie Souther, Sonya Emond, Joyce Joevenazzo, Leola Grams, Orest Dorosh, Randy Kiemele, Judy and Brett Jensen, Marlene Moser, Helen Fai, Zac Lanthier, John Eastman, Henry Komadowski, Barb Black, Bert Huipen, Dave Biro, John and Karen Cherwonogrodzky; Ron Biel, Pauline Zeschuk and many, many more (Sorry! I just don't know your names!) for taking the time to help out with everything from set up to clean up, selling raffle tickets, helping with the auction and everything in between. You are the reason the 2017 May Daze was a success.

I look forward to seeing you all next year in Calgary!

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## **TAILGATING TAILGATING TAILGATING TAILGATING TAILGATING TAILGATING**

Southern Alberta Rockhounds Association will hold a tailgate event on Saturday, September 09, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Lethbridge Peavey Mart parking lot. The address for the Lethbridge Peavey Mart is 33 Southgate Blvd. S. which is just off Mayor Magrath Drive South across the street from Costco.

Also, a relatively new Estwing rock hammer was turned in to me following the May Daze field trips. If anyone is missing this hammer would they please contact me at [dgbrett.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:dgbrett.jensen@gmail.com).

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## **COMIC RELIEF**

1. When life gives you LIMES, rearrange the letters until they say SMILE.
2. Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero they closed the school? Me neither.
3. A thief broke into my house last night.... He started searching for money ... so I woke up and searched with him....
4. Just remember, once you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed.
5. I changed my password to "incorrect" so when I forget it, the computer will say, "Your password is incorrect".
6. I bought a vacuum cleaner six months ago and so far all it's been doing is collecting dust.
7. Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home, when you wish they were.

# **Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada**

## **Annual Show and Convention**

**At the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre**

**Saturday September 23, 2017 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

**Sunday September 24, 2017 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Admission \$3.00 per person. Everyone welcome.**

**Children under 6 free when accompanied by an  
adult.**

**Fossils, Rocks, Gems, Minerals,  
Jewelry, Beads, Equipment and more**

**There will be demonstrations, exhibits & door prizes**

### **Dealers**

**C & D Gemcraft, Linda Zepik, Discovery Gemstones,  
Crystal Rockin Minerals, Earth Spa,  
Komarevich Originals**

Concession will be provided

Banquet and annual meeting Saturday September 23, 7:00 PM--TBA

For more information call: Don Fabrick

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