

ALBERTA ROCKHOUND NEWS

Publication of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs



Volume 48 No. 2

May, 2018



Greetings from the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs (AFRC)

May Daze has come and gone. Thank you to the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club for hosting this year's meeting. Everyone really appreciates all the hard work that went into planning and running May Daze. The weather was great so that always helps. Many club members enjoyed the field trips and the demos on Saturday.

The Saturday evening rock auction is always a great attraction. Thanks to the organizers and the auctioneers who moved over 200 lots in four hours! The auction is a serious event for many of us; one table gave up a cheer every time someone at their table bought a lot. Thank you. Many people went home with tools or rock treasures which will no doubt be cut up to make more pretty rocks or jewelry. There were also seed potatoes sold that will of course turn into more potatoes.

The Annual General Meeting for the AFRC was held Sunday morning. The minutes for the meeting will be in this newsletter. There was a good discussion on how to make the auction open for more club members to enter lots. A motion was passed to limit the number of lots to 10 per club member. The total lots for the auction will remain at 200. In the last few years there has been an increase in the number of people who want to enter lots in the auction. Years ago a lot of the auction items would show up the day of the auction un-booked, but not next year. An hour after the AGM ended the auction was fully booked for next year's May Daze!

Next year the Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club will host the May Daze event. A hall has been booked for the May long weekend and plans are well underway. A year can fly by pretty quickly, so think about planning to come to Medicine Hat next year.

For more than a year I have been asking for someone to fill the secretary position on the executive of the AFRC. I shouldn't have to be doing that anymore because a member from the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club said he would like to be the secretary! Great news. Thank you to all the members who have stepped up and done the secretary job as a temporary fill in. The new secretary still needs to be officially voted in as a director of the AFRC and then he can be voted in as the secretary. It's always good for an organization to have all the executive positions filled.

I wish you all the best this summer and safe travels, especially if you are out rock hounding. Enjoy the summer everyone!

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS

President: Ron Biel (403) 391 8063 ronbiel@platinum.ca

Vice-Pres: Leola Grams sachilives@gmail.com

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: John Cherwonogrodzky (403) 526 0532 jcherwono@shaw.ca

Custodian/Librarian: vacant

Past Pres: Lavern Novlan linovlan@nucleus.com (403) 281-1260

Editor: Ed & Pauline Zeschuk epz@shaw.ca (780) 430-6694

MEMBER CLUBS AND SECRETARIES

Calgary Facetors Guild: Dave Biro (403) 885 4653

Calgary CRLC: Shelley Gibbins sapphire13@shaw.ca

Edmonton Tumblewood: Heather Strachan (780) 991 4966 strachan.heather@gmail.com

Lacombe Lapidary Club: (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

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 1st and each paid up member is entitled to 3rd Party Liability Insurance which covers events such as field trips, rock and gem shows, and other organized events.

**ALBERTA
ROCKHOUND NEWS**

Volume 48 Number 2
May, 2018

Editors:

Ed & Pauline Zeschuk

2073 Blackmud Creek Drive SW

Edmonton, Alberta

T6W 1G8

(780) 430 6694

epz@shaw.ca

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.

TIPI RINGS

A. Introduction: (info from Internet)

A tipi ring is the archaeological remains of a tipi, a dwelling type constructed by North American Plains people between at least as early as 500 BC up until the early 20th century. When Europeans arrived in the great plains of Canada and the United States in the early 19th century, they found thousands of clusters of stone circles, made of small boulders placed at close intervals. The rings ranged in size between seven to 30 feet or more in diameter and in some cases were embedded into the sod. The early European explorers in Montana and Alberta, the Dakotas and Wyoming were well aware of the meaning and use of the stone circles, because they saw them in use. What these explorers saw was the people of the Plains using stones to weigh down the edges of their tipis. When the camp moved, the tipis were taken down and moved with the camp. The rocks were left behind, resulting in a series of stone circles on the ground: and, because the Plains people left their tipi weights behind, we have one of the few ways that domestic life on the Plains can be archaeologically documented.

Tipi camps were also organized in a circle. Among Plains Crow traditions, the word for pre history is Biiakashissihpee, translated as "when we used stones to weigh down our lodges". As the European numbers increased they introduced metal and wooden tipi stakes to the Crow people replacing the traditional stones. Indeed, stone tipi rings dated

later than the 19th century are rare.

It was noted that tipi rings typically had a doorway facing east, marked by a break in the circle of stones. According to Canadian Blackfoot tradition that if by chance everyone in the tipi died, the entrance was sewn shut and the stone circle was made complete. That happened all too often during the 1837 smallpox epidemic at the Many Dead Káinai (Blackfoot or Siksikáitapiiksi) campsite near present-day Lethbridge, Alberta. Collections of stone circles without door openings such as those at Many Dead are thus memorials of the devastation of epidemics on the Blackfoot people.

B. FIELD TRIP

by Maureen Dowler

Maureen, from the Medicine Hat Rock and Gem Club, met with the Medicine Hat Archeology Society on a walk along the river valley top located between Medicine Hat and Redcliff to look for and document any tipi rings. Unfortunately the chosen day had very high, gale like, winds reaching 62 km/hr with gusts to 68 km/hr. In spite of the gale force winds that made conversation impossible 10 tipi rings were found in an area of last fall's prairie fire. One tipi ring, further from the coulee's edge was very large. It was likely a ceremonial ring.

The exposed area we were in looked like a likely territory where Indigenous people would have locate a Camp site at because the area was above the river and had a good view of the surrounding area.

In spite of the high winds the field trip was a success and a great learning experience.



MAY DAZE 2018 REPORT

Another very successful May Daze event held at Delacour Community Hall on May 18 to 20. This was the annual gathering of the people belonging to the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs. The event started Friday afternoon with attendees arriving by vehicle, by trailers and by motor homes and parking next to their favorite friends. Once parked they came into the hall to help with the set up of various things. The kitchen had to be organized, the auction selling tables placed in the proper location, the set up of the chairs and tables and set up of the display case. Then the material for the auction was starting to arrive and placed in the correct order and location. During the lull in the set up old friends were able to socialize and reminisce about the “good old days” and where their favorite finds were found. Yes, there were a lot of interesting stories and some were likely imbelished! Three display cases were set up and contents placed. One case displayed Agates, another Petrified Wood and the third was a great display of knives made by Randy Kiemele.



Attendees chose their favorite camping spot.



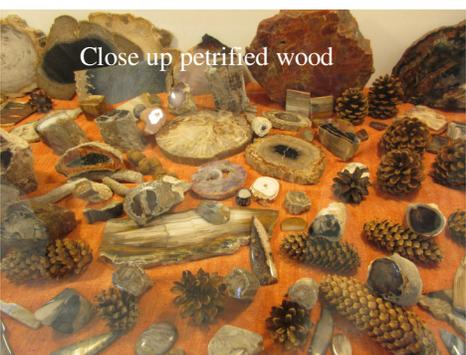
Lapidary materials set up ready for auction



Three show cases were set up



Great display of petrified wood



Close up petrified wood



Wonderful agate display



Close up of agate display



Randy Kiemele's fancy knives



Close up of knives

During the evening a wonderful burgers and accessories and condiments meal was provided. Many members remarked that the burgers were the best they have had!. It's not surprising how a hard days work and travelling a long distance makes the food so much tastier.

Saturday morning started with coffee available at the hall followed by signing up for the 5 field trips available. At the end, one field trip materialized due to lack of interest for the other four. Bret Jensen led a field trip to the area near the Morrin Bridge located at the intersection of Hwy 27 and Red Deer River. 12 members plus him enjoyed the finding of dinosaur bone, petrified wood, agatized limb casts and clam castings, with no shell. The group came back in the afternoon with smiles and showed off their finds.



Ladies had a lively social gathering !



Ivan Petric checking the numbers



Terry Routledge demonstrating beading



Facetors Dave Biro, Ivan Petric & Janusz Meier



Dave shows us how it is done



Jim Routledge demonstrating wire wrapping

In the mean time those people who chose not to go on field trips enjoyed a variety of activities. The ladies had a fun gathering talking about what we did not know because I couldn't get close enough to hear and when I did come close they burst out with laughter and told me nothing. My guess it was probably related to lapidary??

Some members did demos to interested others. There were a number of attentive individuals who went home with new ideas and techniques. They got new inspiration to try new things!

The pot luck meal started on time to insure we don't run too late into the night with the annual auction. There were just a few lots below 200 to auction off. As a warm-up before the auction was held an entertaining event called "Heads or Tails" where a person paid a loonie to enter. The object was to guess what John's flip of the coin would be by placing your hand on your head or butt. The flipping of the coin continued until the last person remaining standing became winner of a very expensive special stone donated to AFRC by Silver Cove. All of the money from this fun game went to the AFRC coffers. After the enjoyable opener and under the able auctioneers, Bret Jensen and Chris Robak, the AFRC coffers gained a reasonable amount of money from the auction commission. Both, the sellers and the buyers were very pleased this year. The auction started at 6:30 pm and ended at 10:25 pm which was proof that the auctioneers were very efficient and the 200 lots were the right amount for the evening. After the money transactions were completed every one left the hall for a rest for the next days activities.



Pot Luck dinner



Signing up for bidding paddle



Able auctioneer Bret Jensen



Auction record keepers



Able auctioneer Chris Robak & helpers Jake Jakielaszek & Ron Biel

Sunday morning started with a complimentary breakfast of eggs, sausage and pancakes topped with maple syrup and plenty of coffee. A wonderful breakfast fit for the hardest lapidaryists all energized for the annual meeting. The meeting started around 10 am and it was completed by noon which was followed immediately by the remaining pot luck from last night. Right after the meal the tailgating started. There was quite an active buying and sell going on in the parking lot. By 3 pm everyone was packed up and headed for home. May Daze 2018 was an exciting, entertaining and very successful event.



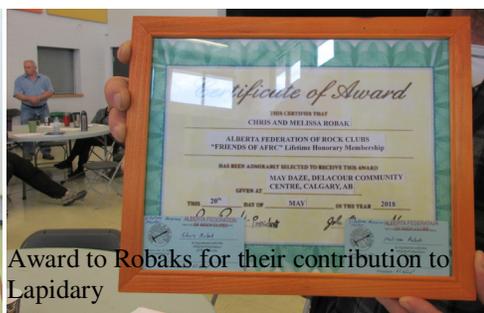
Annual General Meeting



Ed Zeschuk has the floor, still enjoying compiling newsletter



President Ron Biel holding Certificate Of Award to Chris & Melissa Robak



Award to Robaks for their contribution to Lapidary



Very active Tailgating Sunday afternoon

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Delacour Community Hall (Calgary), Sunday May 20, 2018

Minutes taken by Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky.

The Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs Annual General Meeting was held at the Delacour Community Hall just east of Calgary, AB, Sunday May 20, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am.

1. INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS BY THE CALGARY ROCK & LAPIDARY CLUB:

Greetings and thanks to those in attendance was expressed by Mike O'Toole, Past President of the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club. He noted that the Calgary Club was happy to host the event this year.

2. AFRC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

President Ron Biel thanked the Calgary Club for hosting and also thanked all the volunteers and especially Mike O'Toole for taking on the bulk of the work. Ron noted the good weather for this year's event and wished everyone a good summer of rock hounding. He especially encouraged the goal of obtaining new club members and promoting lapidary.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA:

Two items were added to the agenda. Under item 9.1 John Cherwonogrodzky asked for a discussion on tailgating. Dave Reschke added 9.6, regarding the AFRC developing an information package to assist new clubs with start-up. Mike O'Toole moved that the amended agenda be accepted. Seconded by Pauline Zeschuk. Motion carried.

4. ROLL CALL:

Clubs present were the Calgary Faceters Guild, Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club, Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club, Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Guild, Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club, and the Southern AB Rockhounds Association. No one from the newly formed Grande Prairie Rock & Lapidary Club were able to attend.

5. IN MEMORIAM:

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Violet Merkley, Murray Nicholson, Alice King, Bernice Matthews, Helga Merkley, Frank Kuntz, Bill Wutzke, and Herb Reisdorf.

6. THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING:

Had previously been distributed in the May 2017 Alberta Rockhound News. As there were no corrections or additions noted, Clint Blize moved the minutes be adopted as written. Seconded by Ed Zeschuk. Motion carried.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None were noted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9.1 Treasurer's Report and 2017 Financial Statements: John Cherwonogrodzky made available hard copies of the summary of finances that included a copy of the audit, budget for 2018, membership and proposed list of delegates.

Prior to reviewing his report, he provided an overview of the income and expenses for May Daze 2018. He noted that from the donations from the auction, \$1077.00, and the income from consignments, \$778.00, the overall income from the auction was \$1855.70. In addition, \$62.00 was raised from the Heads and Tails event.

Additional income to be collected would be 10% from the tailgating sales. In terms of expenses, he noted these are higher this year as the hall rental was \$1,300.00. John was still waiting for additional bills for the event. John thanked all those who assisted with the auction including the auctioneers, and the 6 clerks and the two runners. He noted, just like the success of the potluck, the auction was successful because of those who stepped forward to assist. He noted special thanks to Mike O'Toole who was there at the end of the night to clean and secure the building.

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

- Presentation of 2017 audit, vote for approval: As it was noted that there was a small error in a total presented in the budget, John Cherwonogrodzky moved the audit be approved pending the needed correction that was noted. Seconded by Ed Zeschuk. Motion carried.
- Vote regarding auditors for 2018: John Cherwonogrodzky moved that to comply with Section 47 of the AFRC Bylaws, Peggy and Keith Keck from the Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club be appointed as auditors for the January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 term. Seconded by Brett Jensen. Motion carried.
- Presentation of 2018 budget: Following a review of the Treasurer's proposed budget that included newly obtained Director's Insurance, John Cherwonogrodzky moved the budget for 2018 be approved as presented. Seconded by Linda Fradette. Motion Carried.
- Vote on fees for members and associate members: As the finances of the AFRC are doing well, John Cherwonogrodzky moved that the 2019 AFRC membership and associate membership fees remain the same as they have been since 1991: Family \$5.00, Adult \$4.50, and Student \$4.00. Seconded by Terry Routledge. Motion carried.
- John Cherwonogrodzky explained that to comply with the AFRC bylaws, the list of directors needed to be updated and approved for the annual return to Alberta Registries. Following review of the proposed list of delegates, Mike O'Toole requested that the three representatives listed for the Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club be removed. It was explained that their club failed to nominate delegates at their last meeting. Therefore, John's final motion was that the list of AFRC Executives and Club Delegates to the AFRC be approved pending corrections of removing the three Calgary delegates. Seconded by Barry Rogers. Motion carried.
- Presentation of preliminary results for AFRC auction, income & expenses. Further to his preliminary comments, John Cherwonogrodzky noted that this year there was enough from the auction to pay all those who consigned items with cash. Even though expenses were higher this year, John anticipated a slight profit. Once he receives all the bills and the income from tailgating, he will be able to calculate the final balance for May Daze 2018.
- Discussion of Auction: John Cherwonogrodzky noted that he received feedback from some that they never had a chance to submit auction items as the limit of 200 items that had been voted on by the directors had been reached. Therefore, John suggested that lots per person should perhaps be limited to 20. Discussion followed regarding the maximum lots per person. Following discussion, Ed Zeschuk moved that there be a limit of 10 lots per person and that consignees could be non AFRC members. Seconded by Barry Rogers. Motion Carried.

Regarding the timeline for reserving lots, Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky motioned that lots be reserved on a first come, first serve basis with a deadline of May 1st for consignment lots. If any lots are available after that date, the Treasurer will advise AFRC Directors to advise their members and they can continue to re-

serve additional lots on a first come, first serve basis. Seconded by Barry Rogers. Motion carried.

There was additional discussion following a suggestion made by Pauline Zeschuk that rather than 15% of the sales going to the AFRC that it be increased to 20% or even higher. Following discussion, it was decided that if the AFRC starts to experience a financial deficit, Pauline's suggestion would be considered. However, as the AFRC finances are currently healthy there is no need to increase the percentage at this time.

- Discussion on Tailgating: John Cherwonogrodzky noted that the meeting started late as the executive was waiting for those who were outside setting up for tailgating. It was suggested by Brett Jensen that perhaps a set up time for tailgating be put on the schedule. Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky said that she would like to know if she should add a time slot for set up on the May Daze 2019 schedule. After discussion and a proposed motion, it was decided to leave tailgate setup as is.

9.2 Custodian's and Librarian Report and Traveling Memento: Mike O'Toole noted that he was not able to locate the Traveling Memento after searching through the Calgary Workshop. He noted that they did have a break-in at their club but he was not sure if the Memento had been stolen. Mike O'Toole agreed to contact Francoise Lavigne, the prior Custodian to ask if he knew where else the Memento could possibly be stored. As was motioned at the last AGM, Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club has been in possession of the Traveling Library for the last year. There was no interest by any club in taking the travelling library at this AGM. It was suggested that if there was a way to transport it to Grande Prairie, it may be helpful for this new club to have it for the upcoming year. Meanwhile, Pauline Zeschuk motioned that the travelling library go back to the Medicine Hat Club and that it be given to another club at the September 2018 meeting. Seconded by Brett Jensen. Motion carried.

9.3 AFRC Delegates from Member Clubs for 2018 – 2019: As all issues were addressed under 9.1, no further discussion was required.

9.4 GMFC report. Brett Jensen noted that he participated in a GMFC conference call on May 6, 2018. There has been no decision yet on where the GMFC AGM or national show will be held this year. He said he will pass on the information once the dates are set. In addition, there has been no progress on the book on tumbling that the GMFC has been working on. Once complete, it will be made available on the GMFC website for free downloading. He noted that the new GMFC website is www.GMFC.rocks. Unfortunately, the old website, www.GMFC.ca is still active but is not being updated. Brett reviewed two of the major benefits of belonging to the GMFC: the insurance and the available scholarships. Brett reviewed the two types of scholarships available and encouraged those present to access the site for the forms to apply for the scholarships. He noted that last year they did not receive any applicants for the honorary scholarship. Brett also noted that he is currently the only rep from the AFRC and he would like to see more volunteer so that Alberta will have more of a voice. Alberta is allowed up to six representatives. He reviewed the duties of being a representative and that the majority of meetings are conference calls. He noted that the 2019 meeting will be held in Lethbridge from September 26th to 28th. When asked if representatives had to be from the AFRC executive, it was noted that past motions would have to be consulted to determine if that was the case. Pauline Zeschuk added that she and Ed were representatives for a number of years and they enjoyed the perks that went along with the position including the field trips and the BBQ at the annual show.

9.5 ARN Newsletter report. Ed Zeschuk noted that he and Pauline continue to enjoy compiling the newsletter that is distributed 4 times per year. He encouraged everyone to submit articles and photos.

9.6 Developing a package for starting new clubs: Dave Reschke explained that he travels across the province and talks to lots of people who would be interested in starting a lapidary club in their community but are un-

sure of how to go about doing so. Therefore he encouraged the AFRC to compile some practical information on how to start a club. He also encouraged clubs to have members attend rock shows to demo use of equipment to get more individuals interested in lapidary. John Cherwonogrodzky agreed and noted that he would be willing to work on some materials that both Chris Robak and Dave Reschke could distribute. This topic will be added to the next agenda of the AFRC meeting. Meanwhile, to assist the Grande Prairie club, members were encouraged to send their contact, Soffie-Ellen Mercier, any available resources.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

10.1 May Daze 2019. Medicine Hat will be hosting the event at the Seven Persons Hall. Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky will Chair the organizing committee. She noted that the hall will have 7 serviced sites and room for additional trailers. She noted the committee has already started to request donations from businesses.

10.2 May Daze 2020. Host Club still to be determined. It was suggested that it may be good to create a schedule.

10.3 May Daze 2021. Host Club still to be determined.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS CLUB EVENTS SUMMER OF 2018:

- Lethbridge noted that their club has decided to hold one field trip per month and stay open over the summer; they will invite other clubs via e-mail once details are set. They will also hold their annual tailgate at the Peavy Mart parking lot on Saturday, September 8th.
- Medicine Hat has not yet made plans for tailgating this summer. If one is planned they will share the information with other clubs.
- Calgary will be holding a Christmas Fair. They will have 30 tables for artisans from the Calgary club. The date has been set for November 3rd.

12. PRESENTATION OF “FRIENDS OF AFRC” AWARD

Although they were absent, a Lifetime Honorary Membership, the “Friends of AFRC” award, was announced for Chris and Melissa Robak. There were 4 reasons for their being given the award approved by the AFRC delegates.

- i) For promoting public interest in rocks, gems, fossils and lapidary through their traveling show that often teaches busloads of school children the topic by using their staff and mineral specimens.
- ii) For giving high quality mineral and/or fossil specimens for the “heads-and-tails” and donation entries for the auction.
- iii) In association with others, for learning about and promoting that new rock & lapidary clubs form across Alberta.
- iv) For participating in and assisting AFRC activities (e.g. May Daze auctioneering).

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:09pm